

## HUMAN RESOURCES CODE

### TITLE 2. HUMAN SERVICES AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN GENERAL

#### SUBTITLE D. DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES; CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

#### CHAPTER 42. REGULATION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES, HOMES, AND AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE CHILD-CARE SERVICES

##### SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 42.001. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the children of the state who reside in child-care facilities by establishing statewide minimum standards for their safety and protection and by regulating the facilities through a licensing program. It is the policy of the state to ensure the protection of all children under care in child-care facilities and to encourage and assist in the improvement of child-care programs. It is also the intent of the legislature that freedom of religion of all citizens is inviolate. With respect to a school or child-care facility sponsored by a religious organization, nothing in this chapter gives a governmental agency authority to regulate, control, supervise, or in any way be involved in the:

- (1) form, manner, or content of religious instruction, ministry, teaching, or the curriculum offered by the school or facility;
- (2) ability of the school or facility to select and supervise qualified personnel, and otherwise control the terms of employment, including the right to employ individuals who share the religious views of the school or facility;
- (3) internal self-governance and autonomy of the school or facility; or
- (4) religious environment of the school or facility, such as symbols, art, icons, and scripture.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2358, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 664, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 218, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. [758](#)), Sec. 27, eff. September 1, 2007.



Sec. 42.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Child" means a person under 18 years of age.

(2) "Division" means the division designated by the department to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(3) "Child-care facility" means a facility licensed, certified, or registered by the department to provide assessment, care, training, education, custody, treatment, or supervision for a child who is not related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the owner or operator of the facility, for all or part of the 24-hour day, whether or not the facility is operated for profit or charges for the services it offers.

(4) "General residential operation" means a child-care facility that provides care for seven or more children for 24 hours a day, including facilities known as residential treatment centers and emergency shelters.

(5) "Continuum-of-care residential operation" means a group of residential child-care facilities that operate under the same license or certification to provide a continuum of services to children.

(6) "Cottage home operation" means cottage family homes that:

(A) are identified on the operation's license;

(B) share a child-care administrator who is responsible for oversight for all homes within the operation; and

(C) are all in or near the same location as defined by department rule.

(7) "Day-care center" means a child-care facility that provides care at a location other than the residence of the director, owner, or operator of the child-care facility for seven or more children under 14 years of age for less than 24 hours a day, but at least two hours a day, three or more days a week.

(8) "Group day-care home" means a child-care facility that provides care at the residence of the director, owner, or operator of the child-care facility for seven or more children under 14 years of age for less than 24 hours a day, but at least two hours a day, three or more days a week.

(9) "Family home" means a home that provides regular care in the caretaker's own residence for not more than six children under 14 years of age, excluding children who are related to the caretaker, and that provides care after school hours for not more than six additional elementary school children, but the total number of children, including children who are related to the caretaker, does not exceed 12 at any given time. The term



does not include a home that provides care exclusively for any number of children who are related to the caretaker.

(10) "Cottage family home" means a family residential setting with one or more homes operating under the license of a cottage home operation and in which:

(A) each home has at least one houseparent who lives at the home while children are in care; and

(B) based on the size of the home and the children's needs, each home cares for not more than six children.

(11) "Agency foster home" means a facility that provides care for not more than six children for 24 hours a day, is used only by a licensed child-placing agency or continuum-of-care residential operation, and meets department standards.

(12) "Child-placing agency" means a person, including an organization, other than the natural parents or guardian of a child who plans for the placement of or places a child in a child-care facility, agency foster home, or adoptive home.

(13) "Facilities" includes child-care facilities, child-placing agencies, and continuum-of-care residential operations.

(14) "State of Texas" or "state" does not include political subdivisions of the state.

(15) "Religious organization" means a church, synagogue, or other religious institution whose purpose is to support and serve the propagation of truly held religious beliefs.

(16) "Children who are related to the caretaker" means children who are the children, grandchildren, siblings, great-grandchildren, first cousins, nieces, or nephews of the caretaker, whether by affinity or consanguinity or as the result of a relationship created by court decree.

(17) "Regular care" means care that is provided at least:

(A) four hours a day, three or more days a week, for three or more consecutive weeks; or

(B) four hours a day for 40 or more days in a period of 12 months.

(18) "Controlling person" means a person who, either alone or in connection with others, has the ability to directly or indirectly influence or direct the management, expenditures, or policies of a facility or family home.

(19) "Residential child-care facility" means a facility licensed or certified by the department that operates for all of the 24-hour day. The term includes general residential operations, child-placing agencies,



specialized child-care homes, cottage home operations, continuum-of-care residential operations, and agency foster homes.

(20) "Before-school or after-school program" means a child-care facility that provides care before or after, or before and after, the customary school day and during school holidays, for at least two hours a day, three days a week, to children who attend prekindergarten through grade six.

(21) "School-age program" means a child-care facility that provides supervision, along with recreation or skills instruction or training, and may provide transportation, before or after the customary school day, for at least two hours a day, three days a week, to children attending prekindergarten through grade six. A school-age program may also operate during school holidays, the summer period, or any other time when school is not in session.

(22) "Children's product" means a product that is designed or intended to be used by a child under 13 years of age or used by a caregiver during the care of a child under 13 years of age. The term does not include:

(A) an item that is not designed or intended to be used solely or primarily by a child under 13 years of age or in the care of a child under 13 years of age;

(B) a medication, a drug, food, or another item that is intended to be ingested; or

(C) clothing.

(23) "Other maltreatment" means:

(A) abuse, as defined by Section 261.001, Family Code; or

(B) neglect, as defined by Section 261.001, Family Code.

(24) "Specialized child-care home" means a child-care facility that:

(A) based on the size of the home and the children's needs, provides care for not more than six children for 24 hours a day; and

(B) has a director and has at least one houseparent who lives at the home while children are in care.

(25) "Grounds" means, with regard to property, the real property, whether fenced or unfenced, of the parcel of land on which is located any appurtenant building, structure, or other improvement, including a public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, and parking garage on the property.



1981; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 4.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 984, Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 1989; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 23, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 218, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.90, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 46 (S.B. 95), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 91 (S.B. 1303), Sec. 27.001(34), eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1323 (S.B. 471), Sec. 3, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 44, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 319 (S.B. 11), Sec. 29, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1136 (H.B. 249), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 807 (H.B. 1540), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.003. REFERENCE TO CHILD-CARE INSTITUTION. A reference in law to a "child-care institution" means a general residential operation.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 42.0031. REFERENCE TO PART OF CONTINUUM-OF-CARE OPERATION. With respect to a continuum-of-care operation, a reference in this code or in any other law to a type of residential child-care facility that is a part of a continuum-of-care operation shall be construed as a reference to that portion of the continuum-of-care operation, and the department may take all regulatory action with respect to the continuum-of-care operation that the



department could take with respect to the type of residential child-care facility, as further specified in department rule.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 45, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.004. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INVESTIGATION INFORMATION. A photograph, videotape, audiotape, or other audio or visual recording, depiction, or documentation of a child that is made by the department in the course of an inspection or investigation authorized by this chapter or Section 261.401, Family Code, is confidential, is not subject to release under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may be released only as required by state or federal law or rules adopted by the executive commissioner.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 313 (H.B. 1648), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

#### SUBCHAPTER B. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 42.021. DIVISION DESIGNATED. (a) The department may designate a division within the department to carry out responsibilities the department may delegate or assign under this chapter. The department shall ensure the independence of the division from the child protective services division.

(b) The commissioner shall appoint as director of a division designated under Subsection (a) a person who meets the qualifications set by the executive commissioner. The commissioner shall ensure the director's independence from the child protective services division and may not terminate the director without the approval of the executive commissioner.

(c) The department shall employ sufficient personnel and provide training for the personnel to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(d) The commissioner may divide the state into regions for the purpose of administering this chapter.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2360, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979.  
Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 8.020, eff. Sept. 1, 1995;  
Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.  
Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.91, eff. September 1, 2005.



Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 28, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.0211. SAFETY SPECIALISTS, RISK ANALYSTS, AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT. (a) The division shall employ at least one specially trained investigation safety specialist, whose duties include the duty to:

- (1) review and evaluate the intake of reports that include allegations associated with a higher risk of harm to the child; and
- (2) consult with the assigned investigator to provide specialized guidance and resources to assist the investigation.

(b) The division shall employ at least one risk analyst, whose duties include the duty to:

- (1) identify facilities, including child-placing agencies, whose compliance histories indicate the potential for a higher risk of harm to children in the care of the facility;
- (2) review the monitoring and inspection reports for any facilities described by Subdivision (1) to assess the quality of the investigation or monitoring; and
- (3) identify any additional monitoring or enforcement action that may be appropriate to ensure the safety of a child in the care of the facility.

(c) The division must include a performance management unit with duties that include:

- (1) conducting quality assurance reviews of randomly selected monitoring and investigative reports to ensure compliance with all relevant laws, rules, and agency policies; and
- (2) making recommendations to improve the quality and consistency of monitoring and investigations.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 29(a), eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.023. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) The department shall prepare an annual written report regarding the department's activities under this chapter.

(b) The annual report shall include:

- (1) a report by regions of applications for licensure or certification, of initial licenses issued, denied, or revoked, of licenses issued, denied, suspended or revoked, of emergency closures and



injunctions, and of the compliance of state-operated agencies, if such agencies exist, with certification requirements;

(2) a summary of the training programs required by the department and their effectiveness;

(3) a summary of training and other professional development opportunities offered to facilities' staffs;

(4) a report of new administrative procedures, of the number of staff and staff changes, and of plans for the coming year; and

(5) a report of trends in licensing violations on a statewide and regional basis and the department's plans to address those trends through the provision of technical assistance.

(c) Copies of the annual report shall be available to any state citizen on request.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2360, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 18, Sec. 2, eff. April 3, 1985; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 8.022, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.92, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 42.024. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE. Chapter 2001, Government Code applies to all procedures under this chapter except where it is contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2361, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(49), eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 42.025. SEARCHABLE DATABASE. (a) The commission shall permanently maintain on the commission's Internet website a searchable database that lists each group day-care home and family home licensed, registered, or listed under this chapter:

(1) that previously had a license, registration, or listing under this chapter involuntarily suspended or revoked; or

(2) for which the commission refused to renew a license, registration, or listing.

(b) The database maintained under Subsection (a) must include for each group day-care home and licensed or registered family home:

(1) the name of the facility;



(2) the address of the facility, including the county in which the facility is located;

(3) any identification number associated with the facility;

(4) the name of the sole proprietor or each partner who owns the child-care operation or, if the owner is a business entity, the name of each officer responsible for the management of the child-care operation as determined by the commissioner; and

(5) the year in which:

(A) the involuntary suspension or revocation of the facility's license, registration, or listing took effect or was final under this chapter; or

(B) the commission refused to renew the facility's license, registration, or listing.

(c) The commission shall include the name of each individual described by Subsection (b) (4) who is associated with the license, registration, or listing in any database entry made under this section.

(d) The executive commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 158 (H.B. 1180), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.026. ACCESS TO DATABASE. (a) The commission shall make the child-care licensing division's searchable database accessible to commission and department investigators.

(b) The department shall make the department's searchable database accessible to commission and department investigators.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 19, eff. June 14, 2021.

#### SUBCHAPTER C. REGULATION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES, HOMES, AND AGENCIES

Sec. 42.041. REQUIRED LICENSE. (a) No person may operate a child-care facility or child-placing agency without a license issued by the department.

(b) This section does not apply to:

(1) a state-operated facility;



(2) an agency foster home;

(3) a facility that is operated in connection with a shopping center, business, religious organization, or establishment where children are cared for during short periods while parents or persons responsible for the children are attending religious services, shopping, or engaging in other activities, including retreats or classes for religious instruction, on or near the premises, that does not advertise as a child-care facility or day-care center, and that informs parents that it is not licensed by the state;

(4) a school or class for religious instruction that does not last longer than two weeks and is conducted by a religious organization during the summer months;

(5) a youth camp licensed by the Department of State Health Services;

(6) a facility licensed, operated, certified, or registered by another state agency;

(7) an educational facility that is accredited by the Texas Education Agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or an accreditation body that is a member of the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission and that operates primarily for educational purposes for prekindergarten and above, a before-school or after-school program operated directly by an accredited educational facility, or a before-school or after-school program operated by another entity under contract with the educational facility, if the Texas Education Agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or the other accreditation body, as applicable, has approved the curriculum content of the before-school or after-school program operated under the contract;

(8) an educational facility that operates solely for educational purposes for prekindergarten through at least grade two, that does not provide custodial care for more than one hour during the hours before or after the customary school day, and that is a member of an organization that promulgates, publishes, and requires compliance with health, safety, fire, and sanitation standards equal to standards required by state, municipal, and county codes;

(9) a kindergarten or preschool educational program that is operated as part of a public school or a private school accredited by the Texas Education Agency, that offers educational programs through grade six, and that does not provide custodial care during the hours before or after the customary school day;

(10) a family home, whether registered or listed;



(11) an educational facility that is integral to and inseparable from its sponsoring religious organization or an educational facility both of which do not provide custodial care for more than two hours maximum per day, and that offers an educational program in one or more of the following: prekindergarten through at least grade three, elementary grades, or secondary grades;

(12) an emergency shelter facility, other than a facility that would otherwise require a license as a child-care facility under this section, that provides shelter or care to a minor and the minor's child or children, if any, under Section 32.201, Family Code, if the facility:

(A) is currently under a contract with a state or federal agency; or

(B) meets the requirements listed under Section 51.005(b)(3);

(13) a juvenile detention facility certified under Section 51.12, Family Code, a juvenile correctional facility certified under Section 51.125, Family Code, a juvenile facility providing services solely for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, or any other correctional facility for children operated or regulated by another state agency or by a political subdivision of the state;

(14) an elementary-age (ages 5-13) recreation program operated by a municipality provided the governing body of the municipality annually adopts standards of care by ordinance after a public hearing for such programs, that such standards are provided to the parents of each program participant, and that the ordinances shall include, at a minimum, staffing ratios, minimum staff qualifications, minimum facility, health, and safety standards, and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing the adopted local standards; and further provided that parents be informed that the program is not licensed by the state and the program may not be advertised as a child-care facility;

(15) an annual youth camp held in a municipality with a population of more than 1.5 million that operates for not more than three months and that has been operated for at least 10 years by a nonprofit organization that provides care for the homeless;

(16) a food distribution program that:

(A) serves an evening meal to children two years of age or older; and

(B) is operated by a nonprofit food bank in a nonprofit, religious, or educational facility for not more than two hours a day on regular business days;



(17) a child-care facility that operates for less than three consecutive weeks and less than 40 days in a period of 12 months;

(18) a program:

(A) in which a child receives direct instruction in a single skill, talent, ability, expertise, or proficiency;

(B) that does not provide services or offerings that are not directly related to the single talent, ability, expertise, or proficiency;

(C) that does not advertise or otherwise represent that the program is a child-care facility, day-care center, or licensed before-school or after-school program or that the program offers child-care services;

(D) that informs the parent or guardian:

(i) that the program is not licensed by the state; and

(ii) about the physical risks a child may face while participating in the program; and

(E) that conducts background checks for all program employees and volunteers who work with children in the program using information that is obtained from the Department of Public Safety;

(19) an elementary-age (ages 5-13) recreation program that:

(A) adopts standards of care, including standards relating to staff ratios, staff training, health, and safety;

(B) provides a mechanism for monitoring and enforcing the standards and receiving complaints from parents of enrolled children;

(C) does not advertise as or otherwise represent the program as a child-care facility, day-care center, or licensed before-school or after-school program or that the program offers child-care services;

(D) informs parents that the program is not licensed by the state;

(E) is organized as a nonprofit organization or is located on the premises of a participant's residence;

(F) does not accept any remuneration other than a nominal annual membership fee;

(G) does not solicit donations as compensation or payment for any good or service provided as part of the program; and

(H) conducts background checks for all program employees and volunteers who work with children in the program using information that is obtained from the Department of Public Safety;

(20) a living arrangement in a caretaker's home involving one or more children or a sibling group, excluding children who are related to the caretaker, in which the caretaker:



(A) had a prior relationship with the child or sibling group or other family members of the child or sibling group;

(B) does not care for more than one unrelated child or sibling group;

(C) does not receive compensation or solicit donations for the care of the child or sibling group; and

(D) has a written agreement with the parent to care for the child or sibling group;

(21) a living arrangement in a caretaker's home involving one or more children or a sibling group, excluding children who are related to the caretaker, in which:

(A) the department is the managing conservator of the child or sibling group;

(B) the department placed the child or sibling group in the caretaker's home; and

(C) the caretaker had a long-standing and significant relationship with the child or sibling group, or the family of the child or sibling group, before the child or sibling group was placed with the caretaker;

(22) a living arrangement in a caretaker's home involving one or more children or a sibling group, excluding children who are related to the caretaker, in which the child is in the United States on a time-limited visa under the sponsorship of the caretaker or of a sponsoring organization;

(23) a facility operated by a nonprofit organization that:

(A) does not otherwise operate as a child-care facility that is required to be licensed under this section;

(B) provides emergency shelter and care for not more than 15 days to children 13 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age who are victims of human trafficking alleged under Section [20A.02](#), Penal Code;

(C) is located in a municipality with a population of at least 600,000 that is in a county on an international border; and

(D) meets one of the following criteria:

(i) is licensed by, or operates under an agreement with, a state or federal agency to provide shelter and care to children; or

(ii) meets the eligibility requirements for a contract under Section [51.005](#)(b)(3);

(24) a facility that provides respite care exclusively for a local mental health authority under a contract with the local mental health



authority; or

(25) a living arrangement in a caretaker's home involving one or more children or a sibling group in which the caretaker:

(A) has a written authorization agreement under Chapter 34, Family Code, with the parent of each child or sibling group to care for each child or sibling group;

(B) does not care for more than six children, excluding children who are related to the caretaker; and

(C) does not receive compensation for caring for any child or sibling group.

(b-1) Repealed by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720, Sec. 19(1), eff. September 1, 2009.

(c) A single license that lists addresses and the appropriate facilities may be issued to a general residential operation that operates noncontiguous facilities that are across the street from, in the same city block as, or on the same property as one another and that are demonstrably a single operation as indicated by patterns of staffing, finance, administrative supervision, and programs.

(d) A facility exempt from the provisions of Subsection (a) that desires to receive or participate in federal or state funding shall be required to comply with all other provisions of this chapter and with all regulations promulgated under this chapter.

(e) The exemptions provided by Subsection (b) do not affect the authority of local, regional, or state health department officials, the state fire marshal, or local fire prevention officials to inspect child-care facilities.

(f) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection (b)(14), a municipality that operates an elementary-age (ages 5-13) recreation program may, in lieu of an annual public hearing, accept public comment through the municipality's Internet website for at least 30 days before the municipality adopts standards of care by ordinance if the municipality:

(1) has a population of 300,000 or more; and

(2) has held at least two annual public hearings on the standards of care and adopted standards of care by ordinance after those public hearings.

(g) A child-care facility that is exempt under Subsection (b)(3) from the licensing requirement of Subsection (a) may provide care for each child at the child-care facility for not more than 15 hours a week if the child-care facility:



(1) provides the child care so that a person may attend an educational class provided by a nonprofit entity; and

(2) is located in a county with a population of 800,000 or more that is adjacent to an international border.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2361, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 2812, ch. 759, Sec. 2, 3, eff. Aug. 31, 1981; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 4.03, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1115, Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 1987; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 262, Sec. 54, eff. Jan. 1, 1996; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 847, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 7.46, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 664, Sec. 3, 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 218, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.93(a), eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 263 (S.B. 103), Sec. 25, eff. June 8, 2007.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1037 (H.B. 1786), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 19(1), eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 343 (H.B. 3051), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 161 (S.B. 1093), Sec. 22.001(30), eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 192 (S.B. 353), Sec. 1, eff. May 25, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 746 (S.B. 427), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.



Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. [219](#)), Sec. 4.211, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 244 (H.B. [871](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. [7](#)), Sec. 46, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 467 (H.B. [4170](#)), Sec. 10.003, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1294 (H.B. [3390](#)), Sec. 13, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 42.0412. COLLECTION OF LICENSED DAY-CARE CENTER DATA. (a) In this section, "group of children" and "specified age" are determined by the formula provided in the commission's minimum standards for child-care centers.

(b) The commission, in collaboration with the department and using existing resources, shall collect, compile, and publish on the commission's Internet website the following data aggregated by child age on reported incidents in licensed day-care centers that threaten or impair the basic health, safety, or welfare of a child:

- (1) the number of incidents investigated by the commission or department and assigned the commission's highest priority;
- (2) the number of incidents investigated by the commission or department and assigned the commission's second-highest priority;
- (3) the number of violations;
- (4) the number of confirmed serious injuries to children; and
- (5) the number of child fatalities.

(c) During each monitoring inspection of a licensed day-care center the commission conducts, the commission, using existing resources, shall collect the following data for each group of children four years of age and younger in the day-care center:

- (1) the specified age of the children in the group;
- (2) the number of children in the group; and
- (3) the number of caregivers supervising the children in the group.

(c-1) The commission, using existing resources, shall collect and publish on the commission's Internet website data on the total number of employees who left employment with each licensed day-care center during the preceding calendar year.



(d) The commission shall make the data collected under this section available to persons researching the factors related to child injury, maltreatment, and death in licensed day-care centers on request.

(e) The commission, using existing resources, shall provide an annual report to the legislature that includes:

(1) the number of confirmed serious injuries and fatalities for children four years of age and younger, aggregated by the age of the injured or deceased child, including information collected by the department, that occurred:

(A) at each licensed day-care center; and

(B) at a location other than a licensed day-care center;

(2) the priority assigned to the investigation conducted by the commission or department in response to an incident that resulted in a serious injury or child fatality;

(3) the number of investigations conducted by the commission or department at each licensed day-care center involving a child four years of age or younger that were assigned the highest priority or second-highest priority, aggregated by the age of the youngest affected child;

(4) the number of violations the commission found at each licensed day-care center during investigations described by Subdivision (3); and

(5) a comparison on whether children under the supervision of a licensed day-care center are more likely than children outside the supervision of a licensed day-care center to suffer a serious injury or death.

(f) The commission, in collaboration with the department and using existing resources, shall research, collect, compile, and publish on the commission's Internet website, in a way that allows meaningful comparison on a pro-rata basis of the relative frequency of each event included in the information required under Subsection (b)(4) and (5), the following data aggregated by child age regarding incidents at a location other than a licensed day-care center that threaten or impair the basic health, safety, or welfare of a child:

(1) the number of confirmed serious injuries to children; and

(2) the number of child fatalities.

(g) The commission may collaborate with one or more state agencies to perform a duty under Subsections (e) and (f).

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 969 (S.B. 708), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2019.



Sec. 42.042. RULES AND STANDARDS. (a) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(b) The department shall conduct a comprehensive review of all rules and standards at least every six years. For purposes of this subsection, the six-year period begins on the latest of the date of:

- (1) the conclusion of the review of the rules and standards;
- (2) a decision by the department not to revise the rules and standards;
- (3) a decision by the executive commissioner not to revise the rules and standards; or
- (4) executive commissioner action adopting new standards.

(b-1) Not later than the earlier of December 31, 2020, or the date the commission conducts the next review required by Subsection (b), the commission shall create and implement a process to simplify, streamline, and provide for greater flexibility in the application of the minimum standards to licensed child-placing agencies, agency foster homes, and adoptive homes with the goal of increasing the number of foster and adoptive homes in this state. This subsection expires September 1, 2021.

(c) The department shall provide a standard procedure for receiving and recording complaints. The executive commissioner shall adopt rules regarding the receipt of anonymous complaints made regarding child-care facilities and family homes to limit the number of anonymous complaints investigated by the department.

(d) The department shall provide standard forms for applications and inspection reports.

(d-1) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt minimum standards for listed family homes. The minimum standards must:

- (1) promote the health, safety, and welfare of children attending a listed family home;
- (2) promote safe, comfortable, and healthy listed family homes for children;
- (3) ensure adequate supervision of children by capable, qualified, and healthy personnel; and
- (4) ensure medication is administered in accordance with Section 42.065.

(e) The executive commissioner shall promulgate minimum standards that apply to licensed child-care facilities and to registered family homes covered by this chapter and that will:



(1) promote the health, safety, and welfare of children attending a facility or registered family home;

(2) promote safe, comfortable, and healthy physical facilities and registered family homes for children;

(3) ensure adequate supervision of children by capable, qualified, and healthy personnel;

(4) ensure adequate and healthy food service where food service is offered;

(5) prohibit racial discrimination by child-care facilities and registered family homes;

(6) require procedures for parental and guardian consultation in the formulation of children's educational and therapeutic programs;

(7) prevent the breakdown of foster care and adoptive placement;

(8) ensure that a child-care facility or registered family home:

(A) follows the directions of a child's physician or other health care provider in providing specialized medical assistance required by the child; and

(B) maintains for a reasonable time a copy of any directions from the physician or provider that the parent provides to the facility or home; and

(9) ensure that a child's health, safety, and welfare are adequately protected on the grounds of a child-care facility or registered family home.

(e-1) The commission may not prohibit possession of lawfully permitted firearms and ammunition in an agency foster home. Minimum standards may be adopted under this section relating to safety and proper storage of firearms and ammunition. The minimum standards must allow firearms and ammunition to be stored together in the same locked location.

(e-2) The department may not prohibit the foster parent of a child who resides in the foster family's home from transporting the child in a vehicle where a handgun is present if the handgun is in the possession and control of the foster parent and the foster parent is not otherwise prohibited by law from carrying a handgun.

(e-3) The minimum standards for a day-care center or registered family home adopted under Subsection (e) must be consistent with:

(1) American Academy of Pediatrics standards for physical activity and screen time as published in Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th Edition; and



(2) the nutrition standards in the Child and Adult Care Food Program administered by the Department of Agriculture.

(e-4) A day-care center or registered family home is not required to participate in or comply with the reporting requirements of the Child and Adult Care Food Program administered by the Department of Agriculture.

(e-5) If the commission determines that the economic impact of requiring a day-care center or registered family home to comply with a minimum standard adopted under Subsection (e-3) is sufficiently great to make compliance impractical, the commission may require the day-care center or registered family home to meet the guidelines of the minimum standard through an alternative method.

(f) In promulgating minimum standards for the provision of child-care services, the executive commissioner shall recognize the various categories of services, including services for specialized care, the various categories of children and their particular needs, and the differences in the organization and operation of child-care facilities and general residential operations. Standards for general residential operations must require an intake study before a child is placed in an operation. The intake study may be conducted at a community mental health and intellectual disability center.

(g) In promulgating minimum standards the executive commissioner may recognize and treat differently the types of services provided by and the grounds appurtenant to the following:

- (1) listed family homes;
- (2) registered family homes;
- (3) child-care facilities, including general residential operations, cottage home operations, specialized child-care homes, group day-care homes, and day-care centers;
- (4) child-placing agencies;
- (5) agency foster homes;
- (6) continuum-of-care residential operations;
- (7) before-school or after-school programs; and
- (8) school-age programs.

(g-1) The executive commissioner in adopting and the department in enforcing minimum standards for a school-age program shall consider commonly accepted training methods for the development of a skill, talent, ability, expertise, or proficiency that are implemented with the consent of the parent or guardian of the participant and that are fundamental to the core purpose of the program.



(g-2) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt minimum standards that apply to general residential operations that provide comprehensive residential and nonresidential services to persons who are victims of trafficking under Section 20A.02, Penal Code. In adopting the minimum standards under this subsection, the executive commissioner shall consider:

(1) the special circumstances, needs, and precautions required of victims of trafficking of persons;

(2) the role of the general residential operations in assisting, supporting, and protecting victims of trafficking of persons; and

(3) the vulnerability of victims of trafficking of persons on the grounds of a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center.

(h) The executive commissioner shall promulgate minimum standards for child-placing agencies.

(h-1) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules governing:

(1) the placement and care of children by a child-placing agency, as necessary to ensure the health and safety of those children;

(2) the verification and monitoring of agency foster homes and adoptive homes by a child-placing agency; and

(3) if appropriate, child-placing agency staffing levels, office locations, and administration.

(i) Before the executive commissioner adopts minimum standards, the department shall:

(1) convene a temporary work group to advise the executive commissioner regarding the proposed standards, composed of at least six members who represent the diverse geographic regions of this state, including:

(A) a department official designated by the commissioner to facilitate the work group's activities;

(B) a person with demonstrated expertise or knowledge regarding the different types and classifications of child-care facilities, homes, agencies, or programs that will be covered by the proposed standards;

(C) a parent with experience related to one of the different types or classifications of child-care facilities, homes, agencies, or programs that will be covered by the proposed standards; and

(D) a representative of a nonprofit entity licensed under this chapter; and



(2) send a copy of the proposed standards to each licensee covered by the proposed standards at least 60 days before the standards take effect to provide the licensee an opportunity to review and to send written suggestions to the department.

(j) The department may waive compliance with a minimum standard in a specific instance if it determines that the economic impact of compliance is sufficiently great to make compliance impractical.

(k) The department may not regulate or attempt to regulate or control the content or method of any instruction or curriculum of a school sponsored by a religious organization.

(l) In promulgating minimum standards for the regulation of family homes that register with the department, the executive commissioner must address the minimum qualifications, education, and training required of a person who operates a family home registered with the department.

(m) In determining minimum standards relating to staff-to-child ratios, group sizes, or square footage requirements applicable to nonresidential child-care facilities that provide care for less than 24 hours a day, the department shall, within available appropriations, conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis and economic impact study that includes families and licensed child-care providers.

(m-1) Not later than January 1, 2021, the executive commissioner shall review the data collected under Section [42.0412](#) and prepare and submit to the legislature a report that includes legislative and regulatory recommendations by age group to enhance child safety. This subsection expires September 1, 2023.

(n) Not later than the 60th day before the date the executive commissioner adopts a revision to the minimum standards for child-care facilities, the executive commissioner shall present the revision to the appropriate legislative oversight committees that have jurisdiction over child-care facilities for review and comment.

(p) The executive commissioner by rule shall prescribe minimum training standards for an employee of a regulated child-care facility, including the time required for completing the training. The executive commissioner may not require an employee to repeat required training if the employee has completed the training within the time prescribed by department rule. The department's local offices shall make available at the local office locations a copy of the rules regarding minimum training standards, information enabling the owner or operator of a regulated facility to apply for training funds from other agencies to lower facility



costs, and any other materials the department may develop to assist the owner or operator or other entity in providing the training.

(q) Each residential child-care facility shall notify the department and the appropriate local law enforcement agency immediately on determining that a child is missing from the facility.

(r) A residential child-care facility that provides emergency services may temporarily exceed the facility's capacity for not more than 48 hours to provide temporary care for a child in an emergency. The facility shall notify the department within 24 hours of the placement that the facility temporarily exceeded the facility's capacity.

(s) A continuum-of-care residential operation shall ensure that each residential child-care facility operating under the operation's license complies with this chapter and any standards and rules adopted under this chapter that apply to the facility. The executive commissioner by rule may prescribe the actions a continuum-of-care residential operation must take to comply with the minimum standards for each facility type.

(t) The commission by rule shall grant to each child-placing agency and each single source continuum contractor the authority to waive certain minimum standards related to preservice training, annual training, or other requirements that are not directly related to caring for the child for:

(1) the child's foster or prospective adoptive parent; or

(2) foster homes that have no citations or violations reported to the commission.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2362, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 4.04, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 920, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 24, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1121, Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1129, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 218, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.94(a), eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 526 (H.B. 877), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 366 (S.B. 322), Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 2007.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 31, eff. September 1, 2007.



Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. [68](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 471 (H.B. [434](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. [1178](#)), Sec. 16(2), eff. September 1, 2012.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1300 (H.B. [2560](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 365 (H.B. [2725](#)), Sec. 4, eff. June 14, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. [219](#)), Sec. 4.212, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. [7](#)), Sec. 47, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. [569](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 948 (S.B. [952](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 969 (S.B. [708](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 14, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1120 (H.B. [2363](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1139 (H.B. [2764](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 246 (H.B. [1387](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 807 (H.B. [1540](#)), Sec. 19, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 809 (H.B. [1927](#)), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.0421. MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS. (a) The minimum training standards prescribed by the executive commissioner under Section [42.042](#)(p) for an employee, director, or operator of a day-care center, group day-care home, or registered family home must include:

(1) 24 hours of initial training that must be completed not later than the 90th day after the employee's first day of employment for an employee of a day-care center who has no previous training or less than two years of employment experience in a regulated child-care facility, eight



hours of which must be completed before the employee is given responsibility for a group of children;

(2) 24 hours of annual training for each employee of a day-care center or group day-care home, excluding the director, which must include at least six hours of training in one or more of the following areas:

- (A) child growth and development;
- (B) guidance and discipline;
- (C) age-appropriate curriculum; and
- (D) teacher-child interaction; and

(3) 30 hours of annual training for each director of a day-care center or group day-care home, or operator of a registered family home, which must include at least six hours of training in one or more of the following areas:

- (A) child growth and development;
- (B) guidance and discipline;
- (C) age-appropriate curriculum; and
- (D) teacher-child interaction.

(b) The minimum training standards prescribed by the executive commissioner under Section 42.042(p) must require an employee of a licensed day-care center or group day-care home who provides care for children younger than 24 months of age to receive special training regarding the care of those children. The special training must be included as a component of the initial training required by Subsection (a)(1) and as a one-hour component of the annual training required by Subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3). The special training must include information on:

- (1) recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome;
- (2) preventing sudden infant death syndrome; and
- (3) understanding early childhood brain development.

(c) The executive commissioner by rule shall require an operator of a registered family home who provides care for a child younger than 24 months of age to complete one hour of annual training on:

- (1) recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome;
- (2) preventing sudden infant death syndrome; and
- (3) understanding early childhood brain development.

(d) Section 42.042(m) does not apply to the minimum training standards required by this section.

(e) In addition to other training required by this section, the executive commissioner by rule shall require an owner, operator, or employee of a day-care center, group day-care home, registered family home, general residential operation, cottage home operation, or specialized



child-care home who transports a child under the care of the facility whose chronological or developmental age is younger than nine years of age to complete at least two hours of annual training on transportation safety.

(f) The training required by this section must be appropriately targeted and relevant to the age of the children who will receive care from the individual receiving training and must be provided by a person who:

(1) is a training provider registered with the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System's Texas Trainer Registry that is maintained by the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office;

(2) is an instructor at a public or private secondary school, an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, or a private college or university accredited by a recognized accrediting agency who teaches early childhood development or another relevant course, as determined by rules adopted by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education;

(3) is an employee of a state agency with relevant expertise;

(4) is a physician, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, social worker, or registered nurse;

(5) holds a generally recognized credential or possesses documented knowledge relevant to the training the person will provide;

(6) is a registered family home care provider or director of a day-care center or group day-care home in good standing with the department, if applicable, and who:

(A) has demonstrated core knowledge in child development and caregiving; and

(B) is only providing training at the home or center in which the provider or director and the person receiving training are employed; or

(7) has at least two years of experience working in child development, a child development program, early childhood education, a childhood education program, or a Head Start or Early Head Start program and:

(A) has been awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; or

(B) holds at least an associate's degree in child development, early childhood education, or a related field.

(g) A person described by Subsection (f)(6) may provide training under this section only if the commission has not taken an action under Section 42.071, 42.072, or 42.078 against the license, listing, or registration of the person or the home or center for which the person is a



provider or director during the two-year period preceding the date on which the person provides the training.

(h) In adopting the minimum training standards under Section 42.042(p), the executive commissioner may not require more training hours than the number of hours prescribed by Subsection (a) for a day-care center, group day-care home, or registered family home.

(i) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt minimum training standards for before-school or after-school and school-age programs as required by Section 42.042(p). In adopting minimum training standards for before-school or after-school and school-age programs under this subsection, the executive commissioner may not require more initial or annual training hours than the number of hours required by Subsection (a) immediately before September 1, 2011.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 2000.

Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 169, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 748 (S.B. 572), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 82 (S.B. 265), Sec. 1, eff. January 1, 2012.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 882 (S.B. 260), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 161 (S.B. 1093), Sec. 22.001(31), eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1155 (S.B. 215), Sec. 61, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.213, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 48, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.04215. SAFETY TRAINING ACCOUNT. (a) The safety training account is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund. The account is composed of:

- (1) money deposited into the account under Section 42.078;
- (2) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the account; and
- (3) interest earned on the investment of money in the account.



(b) Section 403.0956, Government Code, does not apply to the account.

(c) Money in the account may be appropriated only to the commission to provide safety training materials at no cost to a facility licensed under this chapter or a family home registered or listed under this chapter. The commission may contract with a third party to create the training materials.

(d) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. 568), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0422. RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION. A person providing services to a resident of a general residential operation, including a state-operated facility that is a residential treatment center or a general residential operation serving children with intellectual disabilities, shall comply with Chapter 322, Health and Safety Code, and the rules adopted under that chapter.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 698 (S.B. 325), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.214, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0423. CHILDREN'S PRODUCT SAFETY FOR CERTAIN NONRESIDENTIAL CHILD-CARE FACILITIES. (a) This section applies only to a licensed day-care center, licensed group day-care home, or registered family home.

(b) A children's product is presumed to be unsafe for purposes of this section if it has been recalled for any reason by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and the recall has not been rescinded.

(c) A children's product that has been recalled for any reason by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission is not presumed to be unsafe if the product has been remanufactured or retrofitted so that the product is safe.

(d) The department shall include on its public Internet website a link to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's Internet website.



(e) A child-care facility subject to this section may not use an unsafe children's product or have an unsafe children's product on the premises of the child-care facility unless:

(1) the product is an antique or collectible children's product and is not used by, or accessible to, any child in the child-care facility; or

(2) the unsafe children's product is being retrofitted to make it safe and the product is not used by, or accessible to, any child in the child-care facility.

(f) The department shall notify a child-care facility subject to this section of the provisions of this section in plain, nontechnical language that will enable the child-care facility to effectively inspect the children's products at the facility and identify unsafe children's products. The department shall provide the notice required by this subsection:

(1) during the department's pre-application interview for a license, registration, or certification; and

(2) during an inspection.

(g) At least annually, each child-care facility subject to this section shall certify in writing that the facility has reviewed each of the bulletins and notices issued by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission regarding unsafe children's products and that there are no unsafe products in the facility except products described by Subsection (e). The facility shall retain the certification form completed by each facility in the facility's licensing file.

(h) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules and forms necessary to implement this section.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 46 (S.B. 95), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.215, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0424. CHILD SAFETY ALARMS IN VEHICLES. (a) In this section, "electronic child safety alarm" means an alarm system that prompts the driver of a vehicle to inspect the vehicle to determine whether children are in the vehicle before the driver exits the vehicle.

(b) A licensed day-care center shall equip each vehicle owned or leased by the facility with an electronic child safety alarm if the vehicle



is:

(1) designed to seat eight or more persons; and

(2) used to transport children under the care of the facility.

(c) The licensed day-care center shall ensure that the electronic child safety alarm is properly maintained and used when transporting children.

(d) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section.

(e) This section applies only to a vehicle purchased or leased on or after December 31, 2013.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1132 (H.B. 1741), Sec. 1, eff. December 31, 2013.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.216, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0425. ASSESSMENT SERVICES. (a) The executive commissioner by rule shall regulate assessment services provided by child-care facilities or child-placing agencies. A child-care facility or child-placing agency may not provide assessment services unless specifically authorized by department rule.

(b) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish minimum standards for assessment services. The standards must provide that consideration is given to the individual needs of a child, the appropriate place for provision of services, and the factors listed in Section 42.042(e).

(c) In this section, "assessment services" means the determination of the placement needs of a child who requires substitute care.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 25, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.217, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0426. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL. (a) A licensed facility shall provide training for staff members in:

(1) the recognition of symptoms of child abuse, neglect, and sexual molestation and the responsibility and procedure of reporting suspected occurrences of child abuse, neglect, and sexual molestation to the department or other appropriate entity;



(2) the application of first aid; and

(3) the prevention and spread of communicable diseases.

(a-1) A licensed facility shall require each employee of the facility who attends a training program required by Subsection (a)(1) to sign a statement verifying the employee's attendance at the training program. The licensed facility shall maintain the statement in the employee's personnel records.

(b) A residential child-care facility shall implement a behavior intervention program approved by the department for the benefit of a child served by the facility who needs assistance in managing the child's conduct. The program must include:

(1) behavior intervention instruction for staff members who work directly with children served by the facility; and

(2) training for all employees regarding the risks associated with the use of prone restraints.

(c) Not later than the seventh day after the date an employee begins employment at a day-care center, group day-care home, or registered family home, the employee must complete an orientation to the facility.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 25, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.95, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 882 (S.B. 260), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 592 (S.B. 939), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 42.04261. OTHER TRAINING OF PERSONNEL: CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES AND DAY-CARE CENTERS. (a) Notwithstanding Section 42.0426(a)(1), a child-placing agency or day-care center shall provide training for staff members in prevention techniques for and the recognition of symptoms of sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children and the responsibility and procedure of reporting suspected occurrences of sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children to the department or other appropriate entity.

(b) The type of training required under Subsection (a) shall be determined by department rule. The training must be provided for at least an hour annually and must include training concerning:

(1) factors indicating a child is at risk for sexual abuse or other maltreatment;



(2) likely warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment;

(3) internal procedures for reporting sexual abuse or other maltreatment; and

(4) community organizations that have existing training programs that are able to provide training or other education for child-placing agency or day-care center staff members, children, and parents.

(c) If a child-placing agency or day-care center determines that it does not have sufficient resources to provide the training required under this section, the agency or center may contact a department licensing employee to obtain information concerning community organizations that will provide such training at no cost to the agency or center.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1323 (S.B. [471](#)), Sec. 4, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 42.0427. PARENTAL VISITATION. All areas of a licensed facility must be accessible to a parent of a child who is receiving care at the facility if the parent visits the child during the facility's hours of operation.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 25, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 42.0428. POLICIES ADDRESSING SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN. (a) Each child-placing agency or day-care center shall adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children.

(b) A policy required by this section must address:

(1) methods for increasing child-placing agency and day-care center staff and parent awareness of issues regarding and prevention techniques for sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment; and

(2) actions that, after contacting an agency or center, the parent of a child who is a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment should take to obtain assistance and intervention.

(c) The methods under Subsection (b) (1) for increasing awareness of issues regarding and prevention techniques for sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children must include:

(1) the training required under Section [42.04261](#); and



(2) strategies for coordination between the child-placing agency or day-care center and appropriate community organizations.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1323 (S.B. 471), Sec. 5, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 42.0429. SAFE SLEEPING STANDARDS. (a) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish safe sleeping standards for licensed facilities and registered family homes. Each licensed facility and registered family home shall comply with the safe sleeping standards.

(b) If the commission determines that a licensed facility or registered family home has violated a safe sleeping standard established as required by Subsection (a), the facility or home shall provide written notice in the form and manner required by the executive commissioner to the parent or legal guardian of each child attending the facility or home.

(c) The executive commissioner shall prescribe the form for the notice required by Subsection (b) and post the form on the commission's Internet website.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. 568), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.04291. SUPERVISION STANDARDS FOR INFANT DURING TIME SPENT ON STOMACH. The executive commissioner by rule shall establish standards for the visual and auditory supervision of an infant engaged in time on the infant's stomach while awake. Each group day-care home and listed and registered family home shall comply with the supervision standards.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.043. RULES FOR IMMUNIZATIONS. (a) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules for the immunization of children in facilities regulated under this chapter.

(b) The department shall require that each child at an appropriate age have a test for tuberculosis and be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, mumps, rubella, rubeola, invasive pneumococcal disease, and hepatitis A and against any other communicable disease as recommended by the Department of State Health Services. The immunization must be effective on the date of first entry into the facility. However, a



child may be provisionally admitted if the required immunizations have begun and are completed as rapidly as medically feasible.

(c) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules for the provisional admission of children to facilities regulated under this chapter and may modify or delete any of the immunizations listed in Subsection (b) or require additional immunizations as a requirement for admission to a facility.

(d) No immunization may be required for admission to a facility regulated under this chapter if a person applying for a child's admission submits one of the following affidavits:

(1) an affidavit signed by a licensed physician stating that the immunization poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child or a member of the child's family or household; or

(2) an affidavit signed by the child's parent or guardian stating that the applicant declines immunization for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief.

(d-1) An affidavit submitted under Section (d) (2) must be on a form described by Section [161.0041](#), Health and Safety Code, and must be submitted not later than the 90th day after the date the affidavit is notarized.

(e) Each regulated facility shall keep an individual immunization record for each child admitted, and the records shall be open for inspection by the department at all reasonable times.

(f) The Department of State Health Services shall provide the immunizations required by this section to children in areas where there is no local provision of these services.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2362, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 43, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 198, Sec. 2.164, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 563 (H.B. [1316](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. [219](#)), Sec. 4.218, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.04305. VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE POLICY REQUIRED. (a) In this section:



(1) "Facility employee" means an employee of a child-care facility.

(2) "Vaccine-preventable diseases" means the diseases included in the most current recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(b) Each child-care facility, other than a facility that provides care in the home of the director, owner, operator, or caretaker of the facility, shall develop and implement a policy to protect the children in its care from vaccine-preventable diseases.

(c) The policy must:

(1) require each facility employee to receive vaccines for the vaccine-preventable diseases specified by the child-care facility based on the level of risk the employee presents to children by the employee's routine and direct exposure to children;

(2) specify the vaccines a facility employee is required to receive based on the level of risk the employee presents to children by the employee's routine and direct exposure to children;

(3) include procedures for verifying whether a facility employee has complied with the policy;

(4) include procedures for a facility employee to be exempt from the required vaccines for the medical conditions identified as contraindications or precautions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(5) for a facility employee who is exempt from the required vaccines, include procedures the employee must follow to protect children in the facility's care from exposure to disease, such as the use of protective medical equipment, including gloves and masks, based on the level of risk the employee presents to children by the employee's routine and direct exposure to children;

(6) prohibit discrimination or retaliatory action against a facility employee who is exempt from the required vaccines for the medical conditions identified as contraindications or precautions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, except that required use of protective medical equipment, including gloves and masks, may not be considered retaliatory action for purposes of this subdivision;

(7) require the child-care facility to maintain a written or electronic record of each facility employee's compliance with or exemption from the policy; and

(8) state the disciplinary actions the child-care facility is authorized to take against a facility employee who fails to comply with the



policy.

(d) The policy shall include procedures for a facility employee to be exempt from the required vaccines based on reasons of conscience, including a religious belief.

(e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1144 (S.B. 64), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 42.0431. ENFORCEMENT OF SCREENING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO VISION, HEARING, AND OTHER SPECIAL SENSES AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS. (a) The executive commissioner, after consultation with the Department of State Health Services, shall adopt rules necessary to ensure that children receiving care at a day-care center or group day-care home licensed under this chapter are screened for vision, hearing, and any other special senses or communication disorders in compliance with rules adopted under Section 36.004, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Each day-care center or group day-care home licensed under this chapter shall maintain individual screening records for children attending the facility who are required to be screened, and the department may inspect those records at any reasonable time. The department shall coordinate the monitoring inspections in compliance with protocol agreements adopted between the department and the Department of State Health Services pursuant to Section 42.0442.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 712, Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 1999.  
Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 19(2), eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.219, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0432. HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD PLACED WITH CHILD-PLACING AGENCY. (a) A child-placing agency or general residential operation that contracts with the department to provide services must ensure that the children that are in the managing conservatorship of the department and are placed with the child-placing agency or general residential operation receive a complete early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment checkup in accordance with the requirements



specified in the contract between the child-placing agency or general residential operation and the department.

(b) The commission shall include a provision in a contract with a child-placing agency or general residential operation specifying progressive monetary penalties for the child-placing agency's or general residential operation's failure to comply with Subsection (a).

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 319 (S.B. 11), Sec. 30(a), eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0433. SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION PLAN.

(a) In this section, "postvention" has the meaning assigned by Section 38.351, Education Code.

(b) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt a model suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention policy for use by a residential child-care facility. The model policy must:

- (1) be based on current and best evidence-based practices;
- (2) require all employees of the facility to receive annual suicide prevention training that includes understanding of safety planning and screening for risk;
- (3) promote suicide prevention training for non-employee entities, as appropriate; and
- (4) include procedures to support children who return to the facility following hospitalization for a mental health condition.

(c) Each residential child-care facility shall adopt a suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention policy. A residential child-care facility may adopt:

- (1) the model policy adopted by the executive commissioner under Subsection (b); or
- (2) another suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention policy approved by the executive commissioner.

(d) The suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention policy adopted under Subsection (c) may be part of a broader mental health crisis plan if the components of the plan include suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

(e) The commission shall provide to a residential child-care facility any technical assistance necessary to adopt or implement a suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention policy.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 20, eff. June 14, 2021.



Sec. 42.044. INSPECTIONS. (a) An authorized representative of the commission may visit a facility regulated under this chapter or a registered or listed family home during operating hours to investigate, inspect, and evaluate.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-3), the department shall inspect all licensed or certified facilities at least once a year and may inspect other facilities or registered family homes as necessary. At least one of the annual visits must be unannounced and all may be unannounced.

(b-1) At least one of the unannounced, annual inspections of a residential child-care facility must be conducted by a team of at least two residential child-care monitoring staff, and, if feasible, members of the inspection team must be from different residential child-care monitoring units.

(b-2) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, during an unannounced annual or biennial inspection of a day-care center, the department shall meet with the director designated by the day-care center as having daily, on-site responsibility for the operation of the day-care center to assess whether the director meets the qualifications of a director specified by this chapter and department rules. If the director is not present during the unannounced annual or biennial inspection, the department shall schedule a subsequent meeting with the director for that purpose and shall conduct that meeting at the day-care center.

(b-3) The department may, in accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner, designate a licensed day-care center or group day-care home for a biennial inspection if the department determines, based on previous inspections, that the facility has a history of substantial compliance with minimum licensing standards. The biennial inspection of a day-care center or group day-care home must be unannounced.

(c) The commission must investigate a facility regulated under this chapter or a registered or listed family home when a complaint is received by the commission. The representative of the commission must notify the operator of a registered or listed family home or the director or authorized representative of a regulated facility when a complaint is being investigated and report in writing the results of the investigation to the family home's operator or to the regulated facility's director or the director's authorized representative.

(c-1) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2019.



(c-2) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2019.

(d) The department may call on political subdivisions and governmental agencies for assistance within their authorized fields.

(e) In addition to the department's responsibility to investigate an agency foster home under Subsection (c), the department shall:

(1) periodically conduct inspections of a random sample of agency foster homes;

(2) investigate any report of a serious incident in an agency foster home that pertains to a child under the age of six;

(3) investigate any alleged violation of a minimum standard by an agency foster home that poses a high degree of risk to a child in the care of the home who is under the age of six; and

(4) conduct at least one annual enforcement team conference for each child-placing agency to thoroughly review the investigations or inspections of the child-placing agency and all of its agency foster homes to monitor and enforce compliance by a child-placing agency with rules and standards established under Section 42.042.

(f) The department shall use an inspection checklist that includes a list of all required items for inspection in conducting a monitoring inspection under this section.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2363, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 27, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 218, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.96, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 32(a), eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 746 (S.B. 427), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 49, eff. September 1, 2017.



Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 319 (S.B. 11), Sec. 31, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1136 (H.B. 249), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0441. INSPECTION RESULTS FOR CERTAIN NONRESIDENTIAL CHILD-CARE FACILITIES. Immediately after completing a monitoring inspection of a licensed day-care center, licensed group day-care home, or registered family home under Section 42.044, the authorized representative of the department shall review the results of the monitoring inspection with a representative of the facility and give the facility an opportunity to respond to the inspection results.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 253, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 28, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.97, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 42.04411. INSPECTION RESULTS AND EXIT CONFERENCE FOR RESIDENTIAL CHILD-CARE FACILITIES. (a) On completion of an inspection of a residential child-care facility under Section 42.044, the inspector shall hold an exit conference with a representative of the inspected facility. The inspector shall provide to the representative a copy of the inspection checklist used by the inspector.

(b) The inspector shall provide the representative an opportunity to communicate regarding potential violations.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.98, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 42.04412. INTERFERENCE WITH INSPECTION; COURT ORDER. (a) A person may not interfere with an investigation or inspection of a facility or family home conducted by the department under this chapter.

(b) During an investigation or inspection of a facility or family home under this chapter, the facility or family home shall cooperate with



the department and allow the department to:

- (1) access the records of the facility or family home;
- (2) access any part of the premises of the facility or family home; and
- (3) interview any child, employee, or other person who is present at the facility or family home and who may have information relevant to the investigation or inspection.

(c) If access to the records or premises of the facility or family home cannot be obtained, a district court in Travis County or in the county in which the facility or family home is located, for good cause shown and without prior notice or a hearing, shall issue an order granting the department access to the records or premises in order to conduct the inspection, investigation, or interview.

(d) To assist the department in investigating whether a person is operating a facility or family home without a required license, certification, registration, or listing, a district court in Travis County or in the county in which the suspected facility or family home is located may, for good cause shown and without prior notice or a hearing, issue an order allowing the department to enter the suspected facility or family home at a time when the department's evidence shows that the suspected facility or family home may be providing child care subject to regulation under this chapter.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 42.0442. COORDINATION OF INSPECTIONS; ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE INSPECTIONS. (a) The department shall coordinate monitoring inspections of licensed day-care centers, licensed group day-care homes, and registered family homes performed by another state agency to eliminate redundant inspections.

(b) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 946 , Sec. 1.04(c), eff. September 1, 2015.

(c) Each state agency that inspects a facility listed in Subsection (a) shall use an inspection checklist established by the department in performing an inspection. A state agency shall make a copy of the completed inspection checklist available to the facility at the facility's request to assist the facility in maintaining records.

(d) The department shall provide to facilities listed in Subsection (a) information regarding inspections, including who may inspect a facility



and the purpose of each type of inspection.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 253, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 28, eff. Sept. 1, 1997. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 169, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.220, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 946 (S.B. 277), Sec. 1.04(b), eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 946 (S.B. 277), Sec. 1.04(c), eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 42.04425. INSPECTION INFORMATION DATABASE. (a) If feasible using available information systems, the commission shall establish a computerized database containing relevant inspection information on all licensed facilities and registered family homes obtained from other state agencies and political subdivisions of the state.

(b) The commission shall make the data collected by the commission available to another state agency or political subdivision of the state for the purpose of administering programs or enforcing laws within the jurisdiction of that agency or subdivision. If feasible using available information systems, the commission shall make the data directly available to the Texas Workforce Commission through electronic information systems. The commission and the Texas Workforce Commission shall jointly plan the development of child-care inspection databases that, to the extent feasible, are similar in their design and architecture to promote the sharing of data.

(c) The commission shall provide at a minimum five years of inspection data for all facilities licensed or family homes registered under this chapter to enhance consumer choice with respect to those facilities and homes.

(d) The commission shall provide with the inspection data described by Subsection (c) a minimum of five years of investigative data for listed family homes regulated under this chapter to enhance consumer choice with respect to those homes.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 253, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 28, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Redesignated from Human Resources Code, Section 42.0443 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 161 (S.B. 1093), Sec. 22.001(32), eff. September 1, 2013.



Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.221, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. 568), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0443. COORDINATION OF FIRE SAFETY AND SANITATION INSPECTIONS.

(a) The department may not inspect a licensed day-care center, licensed group day-care home, or registered family home for compliance with the department's fire safety or sanitation standards if the facility, at the time of the department's inspection, provides the department with documentation relating to a current fire safety or sanitation inspection, as applicable, performed by a political subdivision of this state that indicates that the facility is in compliance with the applicable standards of the political subdivision.

(b) If the documentation provided under Subsection (a) indicates that the facility was required to take corrective action or that the political subdivision imposed a restriction or condition on the facility, the department shall determine whether the facility took the required corrective action or complied with the restriction or condition.

(c) The department may inspect a facility subject to this section for compliance with the department's fire safety or sanitation standards if:

(1) the facility does not provide the documentation described by Subsection (a); or

(2) the department determines that the facility did not take a corrective action or comply with a restriction or condition described by Subsection (b).

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department shall report to the appropriate political subdivision any violation of fire safety or sanitation standards observed by the department at a facility subject to this section.

(e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 709, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.222, eff. April 2, 2015.



Sec. 42.04431. ENFORCEMENT OF STATE LAW BY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY.

(a) A municipality or a county may enforce state law and rules adopted under state law concerning fire safety standards at a licensed group day-care home or a registered family home.

(b) A municipality or county shall report to the department any violation of fire safety standards observed by the municipality or county at a licensed group day-care home or registered family home.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 354 (H.B. [3547](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 42.0445. REQUIRED BACKGROUND SEARCH OF CENTRAL REGISTRY OF REPORTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT. (a) Before the department issues a license, listing, registration, or certification under this subchapter, the department shall search the central registry of reported cases of child abuse or neglect established under Section [261.002](#), Family Code, to determine whether the applicant or the owner or an employee of the facility or family home is listed in the registry as a person who abused or neglected a child.

(b) The executive commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 29, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. [758](#)), Sec. 33, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. [219](#)), Sec. 4.223, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0446. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN INVESTIGATION INFORMATION FROM INTERNET WEBSITE. The executive commissioner shall adopt rules providing a procedure by which the commission removes from the commission's Internet website information on a child-care facility or registered or listed family home that relates to an anonymous complaint alleging the facility or family home failed to comply with the commission's minimum standards if, at the conclusion of an investigation, the commission determines the complaint is false or lacks factual foundation.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 526 (H.B. [877](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2005.



Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0447. FALSE REPORT; CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally files a complaint alleging that a child-care facility or registered or listed family home failed to comply with the commission's minimum standards and the person knows the allegation is false or lacks factual foundation.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person has previously been convicted under this section, in which case the offense is a state jail felony.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 526 (H.B. 877), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0448. NOTIFICATION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE CALLS. The department shall notify a child-placing agency or a continuum-of-care residential operation that includes a child-placing agency of each family violence report the department receives under Article 5.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, that:

- (1) occurred at an agency foster home; or
- (2) involves a person who resides at an agency foster home.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 524 (S.B. 723), Sec. 4, eff. June 16, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 50, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0449. REQUIRED ACTIONS AFTER NOTICE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE CALL. The executive commissioner shall adopt rules specifying the actions that the department, a child-placing agency, and a continuum-of-care residential operation that includes a child-placing agency shall take after receiving notice of a family violence report under Article 5.05, Code of Criminal



Procedure, or Section 42.0448 to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of each child residing in the verified agency foster home.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 524 (S.B. 723), Sec. 4, eff. June 16, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 51, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.045. RECORDS. (a) A person who operates a licensed or certified facility shall maintain individual child development records, individual health records, statistical records, and complete financial records.

(b) A person who provides adoption services under a license to operate a child-placing agency shall furnish information required by the department to determine whether adoption related income and disbursements are reasonable, appropriate, and in compliance with the department's minimum standards.

(c) If a child-placing agency terminates operation as a child-placing agency, it shall, after giving notice to the department, transfer its files and records concerning adopted children, their biological families, and their adoptive families to the vital statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services or, after giving notice to the vital statistics unit, to a facility licensed by the department to place children for adoption.

(d) A child-placing agency shall notify the department of any change of address for an agency foster home. The child-placing agency shall notify the department of the address change within the earlier of two business days or 72 hours of the date the agency foster home changes its address.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2363, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 1782, ch. 342, Sec. 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1984; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 707, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1129, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 524 (S.B. 723), Sec. 5, eff. June 16, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.224, eff. April 2, 2015.



Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 52, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0451. DATABASE OF AGENCY FOSTER HOMES; INFORMATION PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY. (a) The department shall maintain a database of agency foster homes including the current address for each agency foster home as reported to the department. The database must be updated on a regular basis.

(b) The department shall make the database available to the Department of Public Safety for the purposes of Subsection (c).

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall include the information provided under Subsection (b) in the Texas Crime Information Center database and establish a procedure by which a peace officer or employee of a law enforcement agency who provides the department with a street address is automatically provided information as to whether the address is verified as an agency foster home under this chapter.

(d) Information provided to the Department of Public Safety under this section is confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 524 (S.B. 723), Sec. 6, eff. June 16, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 53, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 54, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0452. FOSTER PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT.

(a) The department shall develop a statement that lists the rights and responsibilities of a foster parent in an agency foster home and a child-placing agency, as applicable.

(b) The department shall provide a written copy of the statement developed under Subsection (a) to each foster parent in an agency foster home and to each child-placing agency licensed by the department. A child-placing agency shall provide a written copy of the statement developed under Subsection (a) to each foster parent in an agency foster home verified by the child-placing agency.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 939 (H.B. 3137), Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 2009.



Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 55, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.046. APPLICATION FOR LICENSE, LISTING, OR REGISTRATION. (a) An applicant for a license to operate a child-care facility, child-placing agency, or continuum-of-care residential operation or for a listing or registration to operate a family home shall submit to the commission the appropriate fee prescribed by Section 42.054 and a completed application on a form provided by the commission.

(a-1) The commission shall require the applicant for a license, registration, or listing for a group day-care home or a family home to provide the applicant's name and the name of the sole proprietor or each partner who owns the child-care operation or, if the owner is a business entity, the name of each officer responsible for the management of the child-care operation as determined by the commissioner on the application form.

(b) The department shall supply the applicant the application form and a copy of the appropriate minimum standards, if applicable.

(c) After receiving an application, the department shall investigate the applicant and the plan of care for children, if applicable.

(d) The department shall complete the investigation and decide on an application within two months after the date the department receives a completed application.

(e) The department may deny an application under this section if the applicant:

(1) has a residential child-care facility license revoked in another state; or

(2) is barred from operating a residential child-care facility in another state.

(f) An applicant for a listing to operate a family home shall submit with the application proof of the applicant's successful completion of safe sleep training in accordance with commission rules.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2363, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 212, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 239, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 30, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.



Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.99, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 56, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.0461. PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING: RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE. (a) Before the department may issue a license or certificate for the operation or the expansion of the capacity of a general residential operation, a cottage home operation, or a continuum-of-care residential operation that is located in a county with a population of less than 300,000, the applicant for the license, certificate, or expansion shall, at the applicant's expense:

(1) conduct a public hearing on the application in accordance with department rules after notifying the department of the date, time, and location of the hearing; and

(2) publish notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the community in which the child-care services are proposed to be provided.

(b) The notice required by Subsection (a)(2) must be published at least 10 days before the date of the public hearing required by Subsection (a)(1) and must include:

(1) the name and address of the applicant;

(2) the address at which the child-care services are proposed to be provided;

(3) the date, time, and location of the public hearing;

(4) the name, address, and telephone number of the department as the licensing authority; and

(5) a statement informing the public that a person may submit written comments to the department concerning the application instead of or in addition to appearing at the public hearing.

(c) The department shall require a representative of the department to attend the public hearing in an official capacity for the purpose of receiving public comments on the application.

(d) Before issuing a license or certificate described by Subsection (a), the department shall consider written information provided by an



interested party directly to the department's representative at the public hearing concerning:

(1) the amount of local resources available to support children proposed to be served by the applicant;

(2) the impact of the proposed child-care services on the ratio in the local school district of students enrolled in a special education program to students enrolled in a regular education program and the effect, if any, on the children proposed to be served by the applicant; and

(3) the impact of the proposed child-care services on the community and the effect on opportunities for social interaction for the children proposed to be served by the applicant.

(e) Based on the written information provided to the department's representative at the public hearing, the department may deny the application if the department determines that:

(1) the community has insufficient resources to support children proposed to be served by the applicant;

(2) granting the application would significantly increase the ratio in the local school district of students enrolled in a special education program to students enrolled in a regular education program and the increase would adversely affect the children proposed to be served by the applicant; or

(3) granting the application would have a significant adverse impact on the community and would limit opportunities for social interaction for the children proposed to be served by the applicant.

(f) Repealed by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 71, eff. September 1, 2017.

(g) Repealed by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 71, eff. September 1, 2017.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 31, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.100, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 34, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 57, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 58, eff. September 1, 2017.



Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 71, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0462. WAIVER OF NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIREMENTS. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), to protect the safety and well-being of residents and employees of a general residential operation that provides comprehensive residential services to children who are victims of trafficking, the commission shall waive the notice and hearing requirements imposed under Section 42.0461 for an applicant who submits to the commission an application to provide trafficking victim services at the applicant's general residential operation.

(b) This section does not apply to an applicant who submits an application for a license for a general residential operation that provides services to children or young adults with emotional disorders.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1057 (H.B. 2070), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0463. EXPANSION OF CAPACITY. (a) Notwithstanding the limitations established by Section 42.002, the department may:

(1) develop, by rule, criteria to determine when it may be appropriate to exclude children who are related to a caretaker in determining a residential child-care facility's total capacity; and

(2) issue an exception in accordance with department rules allowing an agency foster home, cottage family home, or specialized child-care home to expand its capacity and care for not more than eight children.

(b) The department may include children who are related to a caretaker when determining under Subsection (a)(1) whether a residential child-care facility complies with the standards relating to total capacity or child-to-caregiver ratios for the facility.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 59, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.047. CONSULTATIONS. (a) The department shall offer consultation to potential applicants, applicants, and license, listing, registration, and certification holders about meeting and maintaining



standards for licensing, listing, registration, and certification and achieving programs of excellence in child care.

(b) The department shall offer consultation to prospective and actual users of facilities or homes.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2364, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979.  
Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997;  
Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 42.048. LICENSING. (a) The commission shall issue a license after determining that an applicant has satisfied all requirements.

(a-1) The commission shall associate a license issued under this chapter for a group day-care home with the applicant's name as stated in the applicant's license application.

(b) When issuing a license, the commission may impose restrictions on a facility, including the number of children to be served and the type of children to be served.

(c) The commission may grant a variance of an individual standard set forth in the applicable standards for good and just cause.

(d) A license holder must display a license issued under this chapter in a prominent place at the facility.

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 37 (S.B. [863](#)), Sec. 1

(e) A license issued under this chapter is not transferable and applies only to the operator and facility location stated in the license application. Except as provided by Subsections (e-1), (e-2), (e-3), and (e-4), a change in location or ownership automatically revokes a license.

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. [225](#)), Sec. 5

(e) A license issued under this chapter is not transferable and applies only to the operator stated in the license application. A change in ownership automatically revokes a license.

(e-1) Repealed by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. [225](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2021.



(e-2) Repealed by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2021.

(e-3) A licensed child-care facility that changes location:

(1) must inform the commission regarding the new location before changing location; and

(2) may not operate at the new location unless the commission approves the new location after the licensed child-care facility meets all requirements related to the new location.

(e-4) To the extent necessary to comply with a state or local order during a declared state of disaster under Chapter 418, Government Code, the commission may authorize a residential child-care facility to temporarily:

(1) relocate to a new location that is not stated in the facility's license application; or

(2) provide care to one or more children at an additional location that is not stated in the facility's license application.

(f) A license must be issued if the commission determines that a facility meets all requirements. The evaluation shall be based on one or more visits to the facility and a review of required forms and records. A license is valid until the license expires, is revoked, or is surrendered.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2364, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1081, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Renumbered from Human Resources Code Sec. 42.049 and amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 35, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.225, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. 206), Sec. 77, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 60, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1318 (H.B. 4090), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 37 (S.B. 863), Sec. 1, eff. May 15, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2021.



Sec. 42.049. LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED. (a) A license or registration holder under this chapter shall maintain liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$300,000 for each occurrence of negligence. An insurance policy or contract required under this section must cover injury to a child that occurs while the child is on the premises of or in the care of the holder.

(b) A license or registration holder under this chapter shall annually file with the commission a certificate or other evidence from an insurance company showing that the holder has an unexpired and uncanceled insurance policy or contract that meets the requirements of this section.

(c) Should the license or registration holder for financial reasons or for lack of availability of an underwriter willing to issue a policy be unable to secure the insurance required under Subsection (a) or should the policy limits be exhausted, the holder shall timely notify the parent or guardian of each child for whom the holder provides care a written notice that the liability coverage is not provided and there will not be a ground for an administrative penalty or suspension or revocation of the holder's license or registration under this chapter. The holder shall also notify the commission that the coverage is not provided and provide the reason for same. In no case shall the inability to secure coverage serve to indemnify the holder for damages due to negligence.

(c-1) The commission shall prescribe a form that a license or registration holder may use to notify a parent or guardian in accordance with Subsection (c) that liability coverage is not provided. The commission shall post the form on the commission's Internet website.

(d) The insurance policy or contract shall be maintained at all times in an amount as required by this section. Failure by a license or registration holder to renew the policy or contract or to maintain the policy or contract in the required amount is a ground for suspension or revocation of the holder's license or registration under this chapter.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 1002, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Renumbered from Human Resources Code, Sec. 42.0491 and amended by Acts 1997 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. 568), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2019.



Sec. 42.0495. LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED FOR LISTED FAMILY HOMES.

(a) A listed family home shall maintain liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$300,000 for each occurrence of negligence. An insurance policy or contract required under this section must cover injury to a child that occurs while the child is on the premises of or in the care of the listed family home.

(b) A listed family home shall annually file with the commission a certificate or other evidence of coverage from an insurance company demonstrating that the listed family home has an unexpired and uncanceled insurance policy or contract that meets the requirements of this section.

(c) If a listed family home is unable to secure a policy or contract required under this section for financial reasons or for lack of availability of an underwriter willing to issue a policy or contract or the home's policy or contract limits are exhausted, the home shall timely provide written notice to the parent or guardian of each child attending the home that the liability coverage is not provided.

(d) A listed family home described by Subsection (c) shall timely provide written notice to the commission that the home is unable to secure liability insurance and the reason the insurance could not be secured.

(e) If a listed family home complies with the notice requirements under this section, the commission may not assess an administrative penalty or suspend or revoke the family home's listing for violating Subsection (a). This subsection may not be construed to indemnify a family home for damages due to negligence.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.050. LICENSE RENEWAL. (a) A license holder may apply for renewal of a license in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and commission rules.

(b) The application for renewal of a license must be completed and decided on by the commission before the expiration of the license under which a facility is operating.

(c) The commission shall evaluate the application for renewal of a license to determine if all licensing requirements are met and whether the facility has been cited for repeated violations or has established a pattern of violations during the preceding five years. The evaluation may include a specified number of visits to the facility and must include a review of all required forms and records. If the commission determines the



facility has repeated violations or an established pattern of violations, before the commission renews the license the commission may place restrictions, conditions, or additional requirements on the license to ensure the violations cease.

(c-1) The commission may not renew the license of a facility cited for a violation that is not corrected by the required compliance date unless the violation is pending an administrative review under commission rules or pending review as a contested case under Chapter 2001, Government Code.

(d) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules governing the license renewal process for all licenses issued under this chapter. The rules must include:

- (1) renewal periods;
- (2) a process for staggered renewals;
- (3) a process for resolving a late application for renewal;
- (4) expiration dates; and
- (5) conditions for renewal.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.226, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. 206), Sec. 78, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. 206), Sec. 78, eff. September 1, 2016.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. 568), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.051. INITIAL LICENSE. (a) The department shall issue an initial license when a facility's plans meet the department's licensing requirements and one of the following situations exists:

- (1) the facility is not currently operating;
- (2) the facility has relocated and has made changes in the type of child-care service it provides; or
- (3) there is a change in ownership of the facility resulting in changes in policy and procedure or in the staff who have direct contact with the children.



(b) An initial license is valid for six months from the date it is issued and may be renewed for an additional six months.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2365, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 707, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.101, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 42.052. CERTIFICATION, LISTING, AND REGISTRATION. (a) A state-operated child-care facility or child-placing agency must receive certification of approval from the commission. The certification of approval remains valid until the certification expires, is revoked, or is surrendered.

(b) To be certified, a facility must comply with the commission's rules and standards and any provisions of this chapter that apply to a licensed facility of the same category. The operator of a certified facility must display the certification in a prominent place at the facility.

(c) A family home that provides care for compensation for three or fewer children, excluding children who are related to the caretaker, shall list with the commission if the home provides regular care in the caretaker's own residence. The home may register with the commission.

(d) A family home that provides care for four or more children, excluding children who are related to the caretaker, shall register with the commission. A family home that provides care exclusively for any number of children who are related to the caretaker is not required to be listed or registered with the commission.

(e) A registration remains valid until the registration expires, is revoked, or is surrendered. The operator of a registered home must display the registration in a prominent place at the home.

(e-1) A listing remains valid until the listing is revoked or surrendered.

(f) To remain listed or registered with the commission, a family home must comply with the commission's rules and standards and any provision of this chapter that applies to a listed or registered family home.

(f-1) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules governing the certification and registration renewal process for all certifications and registrations issued under this chapter. The rules must include:



- (1) renewal periods;
- (2) a process for staggered renewals;
- (3) a process for resolving a late application for renewal;
- (4) expiration dates; and
- (5) conditions for renewal.

(f-2) The commission shall evaluate an application for renewal of a facility certification or family home registration to determine if all requirements are met and whether the applicant has been cited for repeated violations or has established a pattern of violations during the preceding five years. The evaluation may include a specified number of visits to the facility or family home subject to this section and must include a review of all required forms and records. If the commission determines the facility or family home has repeated violations or an established pattern of violations, before the commission renews the certification or registration the commission may place restrictions, conditions, or additional requirements on the certification or registration to ensure the violations cease.

(f-3) The commission may not renew the certification or registration of a facility or family home cited for a violation that is not corrected by the required compliance date unless the violation is pending an administrative review under commission rules or pending review as a contested case under Chapter 2001, Government Code.

(g) The certification requirements of this section do not apply to a Texas Juvenile Justice Department facility, or a facility providing services solely for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

(h) The certification requirements of this section do not apply to a juvenile detention facility certified under Section 51.12, Family Code, or a juvenile correctional facility certified under Section 51.125, Family Code.

(i) The commission shall provide to a listed family home a copy of the listing. A listing must contain a provision that states: "THIS HOME IS A LISTED FAMILY HOME. IT IS NOT LICENSED OR REGISTERED WITH THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION. A LISTED FAMILY HOME HAS LIMITED MINIMUM STANDARDS AND IS NOT INSPECTED UNLESS A COMPLAINT IS FILED WITH THE COMMISSION." The operator of a listed family home is not required to display the listing in a prominent place at the home but shall make the listing available for examination.

(j) The operator of a listed family home shall undergo initial and subsequent background and criminal history checks required under Section 42.056. If the operator of a listed family home fails to submit the



information required by Section [42.056](#) for a subsequent background and criminal history check, the commission shall automatically:

(1) suspend the home's listing until the required information is submitted; and

(2) revoke the home's listing if the required information is not submitted within six months after the date the automatic suspension begins.

(j-1) A suspension or revocation under Subsection (j) is not a suspension or revocation under Section [42.072](#).

(k) The commission shall issue a listing or registration to a family home, as appropriate, in both English and Spanish when the most recent federal census shows that more than one-half of the population in a municipality or in a commissioners precinct in a county in which the family home is located is of Hispanic origin or Spanish-speaking.

(l) The commission shall associate a listing or registration of a family home issued under this chapter with the applicant's name as stated in the applicant's listing or registration application.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2365, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 2813, ch. 759, Sec. 4, eff. Aug. 31, 1981; Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 212, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 915, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 4.06, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 707, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 8.023, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 262, Sec. 55, eff. Jan. 1, 1996; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 32, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 8, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 218, Sec. 6 to 8, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 263 (S.B. [103](#)), Sec. 26, eff. June 8, 2007.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. [1178](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. [219](#)), Sec. 4.227, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. [206](#)), Sec. 79, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. [206](#)), Sec. 79, eff. September 1, 2016.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. [568](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2019.



Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.0521. DEPOSIT OF FEES. The fees authorized by this chapter and received by the department shall be deposited in the general revenue fund.

Added by Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 239, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1985.

Sec. 42.0522. PUBLIC ADVERTISING OF FAMILY HOMES. (a) A family home may not place a public advertisement that uses the title "registered family home" or any variation of that phrase unless the home is registered under this chapter. Any public advertisement for a registered family home that uses the title "registered family home" must contain a provision in bold type stating: "THIS HOME IS REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES BUT IS NOT LICENSED OR REGULARLY INSPECTED."

(b) A family home may not place a public advertisement that uses the title "listed family home" or any variation of that phrase unless the home is listed as provided by this chapter. Any public advertisement for a listed family home that uses the title "listed family home" must contain a provision in bold type stating: "THIS HOME IS A LISTED FAMILY HOME. IT IS NOT LICENSED OR REGISTERED WITH THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION. A LISTED FAMILY HOME HAS LIMITED MINIMUM STANDARDS AND IS NOT INSPECTED UNLESS A COMPLAINT IS FILED WITH THE COMMISSION."

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.228, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0523. LISTING OF RELATIVE CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS. (a) A child-care provider who only provides child care under Chapter 313, Labor Code, to children related to the provider may list the provider's home as a family home.



(b) Before the department may list a child-care provider's home under this section, in addition to conducting the background or criminal history check required under Section 42.056, the department must search the central database of sex offender registration records maintained by the Department of Public Safety under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, to determine whether the provider is listed in the registry as a sex offender.

(c) The address of a family home listed under this section is the address of the child-care provider's home, regardless of whether the child care is provided in the provider's home or in the child's home.

(d) A relative child-care provider's home listed as a family home under this section is exempt from the health and safety requirements of 45 C.F.R. Section 98.41(a).

(e) The following requirements do not apply to a family home listed under this section:

- (1) the minimum standards adopted under Section 42.042; and
- (2) the liability insurance requirement under Section 42.0495.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 869 (S.B. 76), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2011.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 857 (S.B. 1496), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2016.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 589 (S.B. 569), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.053. AGENCY FOSTER HOMES. (a) An agency foster home is considered part of the child-placing agency that operates the agency foster home for purposes of licensing.

(b) The operator of a licensed agency shall display a copy of the license in a prominent place in the agency foster home used by the agency.

(c) An agency foster home shall comply with all provisions of this chapter and all department rules and standards that apply to a child-care facility caring for a similar number of children for a similar number of hours each day.

(d) The department shall revoke or suspend the license of a child-placing agency if an agency foster home operated by the licensed agency fails to comply with Subsection (c).

(e) Before verifying an agency foster home, a child-placing agency may issue a provisional verification to the home. The executive



commissioner by rule may establish the criteria for a child-placing agency to issue a provisional verification to a prospective agency foster home.

(f) If a child-placing agency under contract with the division to provide services as an integrated care coordinator places children with caregivers described by Subchapter I, Chapter 264, Family Code, those caregivers are not considered a part of the child-placing agency for purposes of licensing.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2365, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979.  
Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 4.07, eff. Sept. 1, 1987;  
Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.229, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 61, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0531. SECURE AGENCY FOSTER HOMES. (a) The commissioners court of a county or governing body of a municipality may contract with a child-placing agency to verify a secure agency foster home to provide a safe and therapeutic environment tailored to the needs of children who are victims of trafficking.

(b) A child-placing agency may not verify a secure agency foster home to provide services under this section unless the child-placing agency holds a license issued under this chapter that authorizes the agency to provide services to victims of trafficking in accordance with department standards adopted under this chapter for child-placing agencies.

(c) A secure agency foster home verified under this section must provide:

(1) mental health and other services specifically designed to assist children who are victims of trafficking under Section 20A.02 or 20A.03, Penal Code, including:

- (A) victim and family counseling;
- (B) behavioral health care;
- (C) treatment and intervention for sexual assault;
- (D) education tailored to the child's needs;
- (E) life skills training;
- (F) mentoring; and
- (G) substance abuse screening and treatment as needed;



(2) individualized services based on the trauma endured by a child, as determined through comprehensive assessments of the service needs of the child;

(3) 24-hour services; and

(4) appropriate security through facility design, hardware, technology, and staffing.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 338 (H.B. 418), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2015.

Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 62, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0535. REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR VERIFICATION. (a) A child-placing agency that seeks to verify an agency foster home shall request background information about the agency foster home from a child-placing agency that has previously verified the home as an agency foster home or agency foster group home.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 261.201, Family Code, a child-placing agency that has verified an agency foster home or an agency foster group home is required to release to another child-placing agency background information requested under Subsection (a).

(c) A child-placing agency that releases background information under this section is immune from civil and criminal liability for the release of the information.

(d) For purposes of this section, background information means the home study under which the agency foster home or agency foster group home was verified by the previous child-placing agency and any record of noncompliance with state minimum standards received and the resolution of any such noncompliance by the previous child-placing agency.

(e) The executive commissioner by rule shall develop a process by which a child-placing agency shall report to the department:

(1) the name of any agency foster home that has been closed for any reason, including a voluntary closure;

(2) information regarding the reasons for the closure of the agency foster home; and

(3) the name and other contact information of a person who may be contacted by another child-placing agency to obtain the records relating to the closed agency foster home that are required to be maintained and made available under this section.



(f) Information gathered under Subsection (e) must be made available to child-placing agencies through a searchable database maintained by the department.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 575, Sec. 36(a), eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 36, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.230, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 63, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0536. TRANSFER OF AGENCY FOSTER HOME. (a) An agency foster home that is verified by a child-placing agency may transfer to another child-placing agency only if, before the date of the transfer, the agency foster home notifies the child-placing agency to which the agency foster home is transferring of each licensing violation for which the agency foster home has been cited by the department during the preceding three years.

(b) The child-placing agency to which the agency foster home is transferring shall submit a written request for transfer to the child-placing agency that verified the agency foster home.

(c) Not later than the 10th day after the date the child-placing agency receives a request for transfer under Subsection (b), the child-placing agency shall provide the child-placing agency that submitted the request a copy of any of the following documents regarding the agency foster home:

- (1) a corrective action plan;
- (2) an annual development plan; or
- (3) a description of any imposed or potential service limitation.

(d) The department caseworker for each child placed in the agency foster home may conduct a review meeting to determine whether the transfer of the agency foster home is in the best interest of each child in the home on the request of:

- (1) the child-placing agency to which the agency foster home is transferring;
- (2) the child-placing agency that verified the agency foster home;
- (3) the agency foster home; or



(4) the caseworker.

(e) After a review meeting, the caseworker shall determine whether each child placed in the agency foster home shall:

(1) stay in the agency foster home after the agency foster home is transferred to the new child-placing agency; or

(2) be removed from the agency foster home before the agency foster home is transferred to the new child-placing agency.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 37, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.0537. CAREGIVER TRAINING REQUIREMENT. (a) The department and each single source continuum contractor shall include a provision in each contract with a child-placing agency with whom children in the managing conservatorship of the department are placed that requires the child-placing agency to provide competency-based, preservice training to a potential caregiver before the child-placing agency verifies or approves the caregiver as a foster or adoptive home. Except as provided by Subsection (d), the amount of training required by this subsection may not exceed 35 hours.

(b) The department shall adopt policies to ensure that each potential caregiver receives competency-based, preservice training before the department verifies or approves the caregiver as a foster or adoptive home. Except as provided by Subsection (d), the amount of training required by this subsection may not exceed 35 hours.

(c) The training required by this section does not apply to an individual who has been designated as a kinship caregiver and who is pursuing verification or licensure as a foster parent or approval as an adoptive parent.

(d) The department and each single source continuum contractor providing foster care placement or case management services may include in each contract with a child-placing agency with whom children in the managing conservatorship of the department are placed provisions that:

(1) require the child-placing agency to, before verifying or approving a prospective caregiver as a foster or adoptive home, provide to the prospective caregiver competency-based, preservice training in addition to other training required under this section, based on the needs of the child being placed, including training regarding:

(A) the treatment of:

(i) children with complex medical needs;



(ii) children with emotional disorders;  
(iii) children with intellectual or developmental disabilities; and  
(iv) victims of human trafficking; and

(B) any other situation the department determines would require additional training; and

(2) allow the child-placing agency to provide training, in addition to other training required under this section for a prospective caregiver, that:

(A) meets the eligibility standards for federal financial participation under the requirements of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L. No. 115-123);

(B) meets the standards set by a nationally recognized accrediting organization; or

(C) meets the standards described by Paragraphs (A) and (B).

(e) The department may require training in addition to other training required under this section described by Subsection (d)(2), as appropriate, for certified child-placing agencies operated by the department.

(f) A child-placing agency may issue a provisional verification as provided by Section 42.053(e) to a prospective foster caregiver while the caregiver completes the training required under Subsection (d).

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1008 (H.B. 781), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2015.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1139 (H.B. 2764), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0538. PROVISIONAL LICENSE FOR KINSHIP PROVIDER. (a) The executive commissioner by rule shall allow a child-placing agency to issue a provisional license for a kinship provider, as defined by Section 264.851, Family Code, who meets the basic safety requirements provided by commission rule. A kinship provider issued a provisional license under this section shall complete all licensing requirements within the time provided by rule.

(b) The executive commissioner shall ensure that the implementation of this section does not reduce the amount of federal money available to this state.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 21, eff. June 14, 2021.



Sec. 42.054. FEES. (a) The department shall charge an applicant a nonrefundable application fee for an initial license to operate a child-care facility, a child-placing agency, or a continuum-of-care residential operation.

(b) The department shall charge each child-care facility a fee for an initial license. The department shall charge each child-placing agency and continuum-of-care residential operation a fee for an initial license.

(c) The department shall charge each licensed child-care facility an annual license fee. The fee is due on the date on which the department issues the child-care facility's initial license and on the anniversary of that date.

(d) The department shall charge each licensed child-placing agency and continuum-of-care residential operation an annual license fee. The fee is due on the date on which the department issues the initial license to the child-placing agency or continuum-of-care residential operation and on the anniversary of that date.

(e) The department shall charge each family home that is listed or registered with the department an annual fee. The fee is due on the date on which the department initially lists or registers the home and on the anniversary of that date.

(f) If a facility, agency, or home fails to pay the annual fee when due, the license, listing, or registration, as appropriate, is automatically suspended until the fee is paid. The license, listing, or registration shall be revoked if the fee is not paid within six months after the date the automatic suspension begins. A suspension or revocation under this subsection is not a suspension or revocation under Section [42.072](#).

(g) The provisions of Subsections (b) through (f) do not apply to:

(1) nonprofit facilities regulated under this chapter that provided 24-hour care for children in the managing conservatorship of the department during the 12-month period immediately preceding the anniversary date of the facility's license;

(2) facilities operated by a nonprofit corporation or foundation that provides 24-hour residential care and does not charge for the care provided; or

(3) a family home listed under Section [42.0523](#) in which the relative child-care provider cares for the child in the child's own home.

(h) The executive commissioner by rule shall set fees under this section.



Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997;  
Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 10, 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.102, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 869 (S.B. 76), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.231, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. 206), Sec. 80, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1057 (H.B. 2070), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 64, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.055. SIGN POSTING. (a) Each child-care facility shall post in a location that is conspicuous to all employees and customers a sign that includes:

(1) a description of the provisions of the Family Code relating to the duty to report child abuse or neglect;

(2) a description of the penalties for violating the reporting provisions of the Family Code; and

(3) a brief description of sudden infant death syndrome, shaken-baby syndrome, and childhood diabetes and methods for preventing those phenomena.

(a-1) A licensed day-care center, licensed group day-care home, or registered family home subject to Section 42.0423 shall include in the sign required under Subsection (a) a description of how to access a listing of unsafe children's products on the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's Internet website or through the department's public Internet website.

(b) The executive commissioner by rule shall determine the design, size, and wording of the sign.

(c) The department shall provide the sign to each child-care facility without charge.



(d) A person who operates a child-care facility commits an offense if the department provides a sign to the facility as provided by this section and the person intentionally fails to display the sign in the facility as prescribed by this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 20, Sec. 1, eff. Nov. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 7.47, eff. Sept. 1, 1997. Renumbered from Human Resources Code Sec. 42.056 and amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 221, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 46 (S.B. 95), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.232, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0551. POSTING OF EMPLOYEE LIST. (a) Each day-care center, group day-care home, and family home shall post a list of all current employees at the center or home in accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules regarding the size, wording, and placement of the list required under this section.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 308 (S.B. 565), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 42.056. REQUIRED BACKGROUND AND CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS; CRIMINAL PENALTIES. (a) The director, owner, or operator of a facility or family home shall submit to the department the names of the following individuals, who must have background checks as described by this section and in accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner:

- (1) the director, owner, and operator of the facility, agency, or home;
- (2) each person employed at the facility, agency, or home;
- (3) each prospective employee of the facility, agency, or home;
- (4) each person who provides care or supervision to children in the care of the facility, agency, or home under a contract with the facility, agency, or home;
- (5) each current or prospective foster parent providing foster care through a child-placing agency;



(6) each prospective adoptive parent seeking to adopt through a child-placing agency;

(7) each person at least 14 years of age, other than a client in care, who:

(A) is counted in child-to-caregiver ratios in accordance with the minimum standards of the department;

(B) will reside in a prospective adoptive home if the adoption is through a child-placing agency;

(C) has unsupervised access to children in care at the facility or family home; or

(D) resides in the facility or family home; or

(8) each person 14 years of age or older, other than a client in care, who will regularly or frequently be staying or working at a facility, family home, or prospective adoptive home, while children are being provided care.

(a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the director, owner, or operator of a residential child-care facility is not required to submit to the department the information required under that subsection for use in conducting a background and criminal history check on a parent or other relative of a child who is a client in care at the facility if:

(1) the department has on file for the parent or relative a background and criminal history check; and

(2) the background and criminal history check was conducted within the two-year period preceding the date the parent or relative visits the client at the facility.

(a-2) In accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner, a person shall submit a complete set of fingerprints if:

(1) the person is required to have a background check under Subsections (a)(1)-(7);

(2) the person resided in another state during the five years preceding the date the person's name was required to be submitted under Subsection (a); or

(3) the director, owner, or operator has reason to suspect that the person has a criminal history in another state.

(a-3) Subsection (a-2)(1) does not apply to a family home that is subject to regulation by the department under Section [42.0523](#).

(a-4) Repealed by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1108 (H.B. [4094](#)), Sec. 5(b), eff. January 1, 2018.

(a-5) The rules adopted by the executive commissioner under Subsection (a-2):



(1) must require that the fingerprints be submitted in a form and of a quality acceptable to the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for conducting a criminal history check;

(2) may require that the fingerprints be submitted electronically through an applicant fingerprinting service center; and

(3) may allow the department to waive the submission of fingerprints required by this section if:

(A) the person for whom the submission is required has:

(i) a fingerprint-based criminal history record check on file with the department; or

(ii) a fingerprint-based criminal history clearinghouse record, as provided by Section 411.0845, Government Code, that is accessible to the department through the Department of Public Safety; and

(B) the department has an active subscription to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national rap back service for the person for whom the submission is required.

(b) The department shall conduct background checks using:

(1) the information provided under Subsection (a);

(2) the information made available by the Department of Public Safety under Section 411.114, Government Code, or by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other criminal justice agency under Section 411.087, Government Code;

(3) the department's records of reported abuse and neglect; and

(4) any other registry, repository, or database required by federal law.

(b-1) For each person whose fingerprints are submitted under Subsection (a-2), the department shall conduct a state and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history check by:

(1) submitting the person's fingerprints, or causing the fingerprints to be submitted electronically, to the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of conducting a state and federal criminal history check; and

(2) using the resulting information made available by that department under Section 411.114, Government Code, and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any other criminal justice agency under Section 411.087, Government Code.

(b-2) For each person required to have a background check under Subsection (a), but who is not required to submit fingerprints for a Federal Bureau of Investigations criminal history check under Subsection (a-2):



(1) the person shall have a name-based check instead of a fingerprint check; and

(2) the director, owner, or operator of the child-care facility, child-placing agency, or family home shall submit the name of the person each 24 months after last submitting the person's name to the department for use in conducting a background check.

(c) The executive commissioner by rule shall require a child-care facility, child-placing agency, or listed or registered family home to pay to the department a fee in an amount not to exceed the administrative costs the department incurs in conducting a background and criminal history check under this section.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720, Sec. 19(3), eff. September 1, 2009.

(e) Repealed by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720, Sec. 19(3), eff. September 1, 2009.

(f) As part of a background check under this section, the department shall provide any relevant information available in the department's records regarding a person's previous employment in a facility or family home to the person submitting the request.

(g) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a person whose name is submitted under Subsection (a) may not provide direct care or have direct access to a child in a facility or family home before the person's background check is completed. A person may be employed at a facility or family home and may provide direct care or have direct access to a child in the facility or family home before the person's criminal history check under Subsection (b-1) is completed if:

(1) the facility or family home is experiencing a staff shortage;

(2) the Federal Bureau of Investigations fingerprint check and the background check using the department's records of reported abuse and neglect have been completed under Subsection (b), and the resulting information does not preclude the person from being present at the facility or family home; and

(3) the person does not have unsupervised access to any child in care.

(h) If the results of a criminal history check under Subsection (b-1) for a person employed by a facility or family home during a staffing shortage as authorized by Subsection (g) preclude the person from being present at the facility or family home, the director, owner, or operator of the facility or family home shall immediately terminate the person's employment.



(i) A director, owner, or operator of a facility or family home commits an offense if the director, owner, or operator knowingly:

(1) fails to submit to the department information about a person as required by this section and department rules for use in conducting background and criminal history checks with respect to the person; and

(2) employs the person at the facility or family home or otherwise allows the person to regularly or frequently stay or work at the facility or family home while children are being provided care.

(j) A director, owner, or operator of a facility or family home commits an offense if, after the date the director, owner, or operator receives notice from the department that, based on the results of a person's background or criminal history check, the person is precluded from being present at the facility or family home, the director, owner, or operator knowingly:

(1) employs the person at the facility or family home; or

(2) otherwise allows the person to regularly or frequently stay or work at the facility or family home while children are being provided care.

(k) An offense under Subsection (i) or (j) is a Class B misdemeanor.

(l) In accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner, a person that contracts to provide one or more substitute employees to a facility or family home must submit to the department for use in conducting background and criminal history checks the name of each substitute employee. Before a substitute employee may be present at a facility or family home, the employee must meet the same requirements under this section as an employee present at the facility or family home who performs similar duties. The director, owner, or operator of a facility or family home must verify with the department that a substitute employee is eligible to be present at the facility or family home before allowing the employee to begin work.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.103(a), eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 38, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 39, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2009.



Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 19(3), eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 422 (S.B. 428), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 746 (S.B. 427), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 746 (S.B. 427), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.233, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 857 (S.B. 1496), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2016.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1108 (H.B. 4094), Sec. 4, eff. January 1, 2018.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1108 (H.B. 4094), Sec. 5(b), eff. January 1, 2018.

Sec. 42.0561. INFORMATION RELATING TO FAMILY VIOLENCE REPORTS. Before a child-placing agency may issue a verification certificate for an agency foster home, the child-placing agency must obtain information relating to each family violence report at the applicant's residence to which a law enforcement agency responded during the 12 months preceding the date of the application. The applicant shall provide the information on a form prescribed by the department.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 524 (S.B. 723), Sec. 7, eff. June 16, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 65, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.0562. INFORMATION REGARDING CERTAIN GROUP DAY-CARE HOME AND FAMILY HOME EMPLOYEES. (a) The commission shall collect information regarding group day-care home and family home employees who have had a license, registration, or other occupational authorization revoked by a licensing authority.

(b) The commission shall collaborate with licensing authorities to determine the most efficient method for identifying group day-care home or



family home employees who have had a license revoked by the licensing authority.

(c) In this section:

(1) "License" means a license, registration, certificate, permit, or other authorization issued by a licensing authority that a person must obtain to practice or engage in a particular business, occupation, or profession.

(2) "Licensing authority" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency of the state that issues a license.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 547 (S.B. 225), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.057. DRUG TESTING. (a) Each residential child-care facility shall establish a drug testing policy for employees. A residential child-care facility may adopt the model employee drug testing policy adopted by the executive commissioner under Subsection (b) or may use another employee drug testing policy approved by the executive commissioner.

(b) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt a model employee drug testing policy for use by a residential child-care facility. The policy must be designed to ensure the safety of resident children through appropriate drug testing of employees while protecting the rights of employees. The model policy must require:

(1) preemployment drug testing;

(2) random, unannounced drug testing of each employee who has direct contact with a child in the care of the facility;

(3) drug testing of an employee against whom there is an allegation of drug abuse; and

(4) drug testing of an employee whom the department is investigating for the abuse or neglect of a child in the care of the facility, if the allegation of abuse or neglect includes information that provides good cause to suspect drug abuse.

(c) The department shall require a drug test of a person who directly cares for or has access to a child in a residential child-care facility within 24 hours after the department receives notice of an allegation that the person has abused drugs.

(d) An employee may not provide direct care or have direct access to a child in a residential child-care facility before completion of the employee's initial drug test.



(e) A residential child-care facility shall pay any fee or cost associated with performing the drug test for an employee.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.104(a), eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 42.058. COMPETITIVE BIDDING OR ADVERTISING RULES. (a) The executive commissioner may not adopt rules restricting competitive bidding or advertising by a license holder or registration holder except to prohibit false, misleading, or deceptive practices or to prevent a violation of this chapter.

(b) Rules to prohibit false, misleading, or deceptive practices may not include a rule that:

- (1) restricts the use of any medium for advertising;
- (2) restricts the use of a license holder's or registration holder's personal appearance or voice in an advertisement;
- (3) relates to the size or duration of an advertisement by the license holder or registration holder; or
- (4) restricts the license holder's or registration holder's advertisement under a trade name.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 33, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.  
Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.234, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.0583. IDENTIFYING AT-RISK PROVIDERS. (a) The department shall use data analytics collected regarding residential child-care providers, including general residential operations providing treatment services to young adults with emotional disorders, to develop an early warning system to identify at-risk providers most in need of technical support and to promote corrective actions and minimize standard violations.

(b) The system developed under Subsection (a) must distinguish between different levels of risk using a multi-point severity scale. The department shall make information regarding the severity scale available to:

- (1) the standing committees of the senate and the house of representatives with oversight of child-care facilities; and
- (2) the public through the department's Internet website.



Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 21, eff. June 14, 2021.

Sec. 42.059. REQUIRED AFFIDAVIT FOR APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH FACILITY OR REGISTERED FAMILY HOME. (a) An applicant for temporary or permanent employment with a licensed facility or registered family home whose employment or potential employment with the facility or home involves direct interactions with or the opportunity to interact and associate with children must execute and submit the following affidavit with the application for employment:

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

I swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I do not now and I have not at any time, either as an adult or as a juvenile:

1. Been convicted of;
2. Pleaded guilty to (whether or not resulting in a conviction);
3. Pleaded nolo contendere or no contest to;
4. Admitted;
5. Had any judgment or order rendered against me (whether by default or otherwise);
6. Entered into any settlement of an action or claim of;
7. Had any license, certification, employment, or volunteer position suspended, revoked, terminated, or adversely affected because of;
8. Resigned under threat of termination of employment or volunteerism for;
9. Had a report of child abuse or neglect made and substantiated against me for; or
10. Have any pending criminal charges against me in this or any other jurisdiction for;

Any conduct, matter, or thing (irrespective of formal name thereof) constituting or involving (whether under criminal or civil law of any jurisdiction):

1. Any felony;
2. Rape or other sexual assault;
3. Physical, sexual, emotional abuse and/or neglect of a minor;
4. Incest;
5. Exploitation, including sexual, of a minor;
6. Sexual misconduct with a minor;
7. Molestation of a child;
8. Lewdness or indecent exposure;



9. Lewd and lascivious behavior;
10. Obscene or pornographic literature, photographs, or videos;
11. Assault, battery, or any violent offense involving a minor;
12. Endangerment of a child;
13. Any misdemeanor or other offense classification involving a minor or to which a minor was a witness;
14. Unfitness as a parent or custodian;
15. Removing children from a state or concealing children in violation of a court order;
16. Restrictions or limitations on contact or visitation with children or minors resulting from a court order protecting a child or minor from abuse, neglect, or exploitation; or
17. Any type of child abduction.

Except the following (list all incidents, location, description, and date) (if none, write NONE)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of notarial officer \_\_\_\_\_.

(seal, if any, of notarial officer)

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) The failure or refusal of the applicant to sign or provide the affidavit constitutes good cause for refusal to hire the applicant.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 33, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1129, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Sec. 42.060. CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS. (a) In this section, "carbon monoxide detector" means a device that detects and sounds an alarm to indicate the presence of a harmful level of carbon monoxide gas.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (d), each day-care center, group day-care home, and family home must be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors in accordance with department rules.

(c) The executive commissioner by rule shall prescribe requirements regarding the placement, installation, and number of carbon monoxide detectors and maintenance procedures for those detectors.

(d) A day-care center is exempt from the carbon monoxide detector requirements prescribed by this section if the day-care center is located in a school facility that is subject to the school facility standards



adopted by the commissioner of education under Section 46.008, Education Code, or similar safety standards adopted by the board of a local school district.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 127, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.235, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.062. CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICE PROHIBITED. A person may not be employed as a controlling person or serve in that capacity in a facility or family home if the person is not eligible to receive a license or certification for the operation of a facility or family home under Section 42.072(g) or has been denied a license under Section 42.046 for a substantive reason.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.105, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 42.063. REPORTING OF INCIDENTS AND VIOLATIONS. (a) In this section, "serious incident" means a suspected or actual incident that threatens or impairs the basic health, safety, or well-being of a child. The term includes:

(1) the arrest, abuse, neglect, exploitation, running away, attempted suicide, or death of a child;

(2) a critical injury of a child; and

(3) an illness of a child that requires hospitalization.

(b) A person licensed under this chapter shall report to the commission each serious incident involving a child who receives services from the person, regardless of whether the department is the managing conservator of the child.

(b-1) A person licensed or registered under this chapter shall notify in accordance with commission rule a parent or guardian of a child in the care of the person of an incident of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the child, injury of the child that requires treatment by a medical professional or hospitalization, or illness of the child that requires hospitalization.



(b-2) A person licensed or registered under this chapter shall notify in accordance with commission rule a parent or guardian of each child in the care of the person of a violation that constitutes abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child.

(c) An employee of a person described by Subsection (b) shall report suspected abuse or neglect directly to the statewide intake system.

(d) An employee or volunteer of a general residential operation, child-placing agency, continuum-of-care residential operation, cottage home operation, or specialized child-care home shall report any serious incident directly to the commission if the incident involves a child under the care of the operation, agency, or home.

(e) A foster parent shall report any serious incident directly to the department if the incident involves a child under the care of the parent.

(f) The executive commissioner by rule shall prescribe:

(1) procedures governing reporting required under this section;  
and

(2) the manner in which a report under this section must be provided.

(g) The commission shall implement this section using existing appropriations.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.106, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 66, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. 568), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.064. INFORMATION REGARDING GANG-FREE ZONES. Each day-care center shall, in accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner, distribute to parents and guardians of children who attend the center information on gang-free zones and the consequences of engaging in organized criminal activity within those zones.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1130 (H.B. 2086), Sec. 6, eff. June 19, 2009.



Sec. 42.065. ADMINISTERING MEDICATION. (a) In this section, "medication" means a drug that may be obtained with or without a prescription, excluding a topical ointment obtained without a prescription.

(b) This section applies only to a day-care center, group day-care home, before-school or after-school program, school-age program, or family home regardless of whether the facility or program is licensed, registered, or listed.

(c) A director, owner, operator, caretaker, employee, or volunteer of a child-care facility subject to this section may not administer a medication to a child unless:

(1) the child's parent or guardian has submitted to the child-care facility a signed and dated document that authorizes the facility to administer the medication for not longer than one year; and

(2) the authorized medication:

(A) is administered as stated on the label directions or as amended in writing by a practitioner, as defined by Section 551.003, Occupations Code; and

(B) is not expired.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(1), a director, owner, operator, caretaker, employee, or volunteer of a child-care facility subject to this section may administer medication to a child under this section without a signed authorization if the child's parent or guardian:

(1) submits to the child-care facility an authorization in an electronic format that is capable of being viewed and saved; or

(2) authorizes the child-care facility by telephone to administer a single dose of a medication.

(e) An authorization under Subsection (d)(1) expires on the first anniversary of the date the authorization is provided to the child-care facility.

(f) This section does not apply to a person that administers a medication to a child in a medical emergency to prevent the death or serious bodily injury of the child if the medication is administered as prescribed, directed, or intended.

(g) A person commits an offense if the person administers a medication to a child in violation of this section. If conduct constituting an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under a section of the Penal Code, the actor may be prosecuted under either section or both sections.

(h) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.



Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 762 (H.B. 1615), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 42.066. REQUIRED SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COURT. A general residential operation that provides mental health treatment or services to a child in the managing conservatorship of the department shall timely submit to the court in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship under Subtitle E, Title 5, Family Code, all information requested by that court.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 317 (H.B. 7), Sec. 67, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 42.067. EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS; IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Anaphylaxis" means a sudden, severe, and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen.

(2) "Epinephrine auto-injector" means a disposable medical drug delivery device that contains a premeasured single dose of epinephrine intended for use to treat anaphylaxis.

(3) "Physician" means a person who holds a license to practice medicine in this state.

(b) A physician, or a person who has been delegated prescriptive authority under Chapter 157, Occupations Code, may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of a day-care center.

(c) A physician or other person who prescribes epinephrine auto-injectors under Subsection (b) shall provide the day-care center with a standing order for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector to a person reasonably believed to be experiencing anaphylaxis.

(d) A standing order under Subsection (c) is not required to be patient-specific. An epinephrine auto-injector may be administered under this section to a person without a previously established physician-patient relationship.

(e) Notwithstanding any other law, supervision or delegation by a physician is considered adequate if the physician:

(1) periodically reviews the order; and

(2) is available through direct telecommunication as needed for consultation, assistance, and direction.

(f) An order issued under this section must contain:



- (1) the name and signature of the prescribing physician or other person;
- (2) the name of the day-care center to which the order is issued;
- (3) the quantity of epinephrine auto-injectors to be obtained and maintained under the order; and
- (4) the date the order was issued.

(g) A pharmacist may dispense an epinephrine auto-injector to a day-care center without requiring the name of or any other identifying information relating to the user.

(h) A day-care center shall store an epinephrine auto-injector in a secure location that is easily accessible to employees or volunteers of the day-care center authorized and trained to administer an epinephrine auto-injector.

(i) Each day-care center is responsible for training employees in the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector. The training must:

- (1) include information on:
  - (A) recognizing the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis;
  - (B) administering an epinephrine auto-injector;
  - (C) the recommended dosages for adults and children by age and weight, if applicable, and the dosages available at the center;
  - (D) implementing emergency procedures, if necessary, after administering an epinephrine auto-injector; and
  - (E) the proper disposal of used or expired epinephrine auto-injectors; and
- (2) be completed annually in a formal training session or through online education.

(j) Each day-care center shall maintain records on the training required under this section.

(k) Not later than the 10th business day after the date a day-care center employee administers an epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with this section, the day-care center shall report the following information to the persons listed in Subsection (l):

- (1) the age of the person who received the administration of the epinephrine auto-injector;
- (2) whether the person who received the administration of the epinephrine auto-injector was:
  - (A) a child enrolled in the day-care center;
  - (B) a day-care center employee or volunteer; or
  - (C) a visitor to the day-care center;



(3) the physical location where the epinephrine auto-injector was administered;

(4) the number of doses of epinephrine auto-injector administered;

(5) the title of the employee who administered the epinephrine auto-injector; and

(6) any other information required by the executive commissioner.

(1) The information required by Subsection (k) shall be reported to:

(1) the owner of the day-care center;

(2) the physician or other person who prescribed the epinephrine auto-injector;

(3) the commission; and

(4) the Department of State Health Services.

(m) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the Department of State Health Services, shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

(n) A person who in good faith takes, or fails to take, action relating to the prescription of an epinephrine auto-injector to a day-care center or the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in a day-care center is immune from civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action resulting from that action or failure to act, including:

(1) issuing an order for epinephrine auto-injectors;

(2) supervising or delegating the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector;

(3) possessing, maintaining, storing, or disposing of an epinephrine auto-injector;

(4) prescribing an epinephrine auto-injector;

(5) dispensing an epinephrine auto-injector;

(6) administering, or assisting in administering, an epinephrine auto-injector;

(7) providing, or assisting in providing, training, consultation, or advice in the development, adoption, or implementation of policies, guidelines, rules, or plans; or

(8) undertaking any other act permitted or required under this section.

(o) The immunities and protections provided by this section are in addition to other immunities or limitations of liability provided by law.

(p) Notwithstanding any other law, this section does not create a civil, criminal, or administrative cause of action or liability or create a



standard of care, obligation, or duty that provides a basis for a cause of action for an act or omission under this section.

(q) If a day-care center obtains epinephrine auto-injectors for use as authorized by this section, the day-care center shall notify each parent of a child enrolled in the center of the center's policy and procedures relating to the administration of the epinephrine auto-injectors.

(r) An act or omission described by this section does not create a cause of action.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (H.B. 1849), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 42.068. REQUIRED POSTING OF NO TRESPASSING NOTICE; CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) Each general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center shall post "No Trespassing" notices on the grounds of the general residential operation in the following locations:

- (1) parallel to and along the exterior boundaries of the general residential operation's grounds;
- (2) at each roadway or other way of access to the grounds;
- (3) for grounds not fenced, at least every five hundred feet along the exterior boundaries of the grounds;
- (4) at each entrance to the grounds; and
- (5) at conspicuous places reasonably likely to be viewed by intruders.

(b) Each "No Trespassing" notice posted on the grounds of a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center must:

- (1) state that entry to the property is forbidden;
- (2) include a description of the provisions of Section 30.05, Penal Code, including the penalties for violating Section 30.05, Penal Code;
- (3) include the name and address of the person under whose authority the notice is posted;
- (4) be written in English and Spanish; and
- (5) be at least 8-1/2 by 11 inches in size.

(c) The executive commissioner by rule shall determine and prescribe the requirements regarding the placement, installation, design, size, wording, and maintenance procedures for the "No Trespassing" notices.

(d) The commission shall provide without charge to each general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center the



number of "No Trespassing" notices required to comply with this section and rules adopted under this section.

(e) A person who operates a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center commits an offense if the commission provides "No Trespassing" notices to the facility and the person fails to display the "No Trespassing" notices on the operation's grounds as required by this section before the end of the 30th business day after the date the operation receives the notices. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 807 (H.B. 1540), Sec. 20, eff. September 1, 2021.

#### SUBCHAPTER D. REMEDIES

Sec. 42.0704. ENFORCEMENT POLICY. (a) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt a general enforcement policy that describes the commission's approach to enforcement of this chapter.

(b) The enforcement policy must:

- (1) summarize the commission's general expectations in enforcing this chapter;
- (2) include the methodology required by Subsection (c); and
- (3) describe the commission's plan for strengthening its enforcement efforts and for making objective regulatory decisions.

(c) As part of the enforcement policy, the commission shall develop and implement a methodology for determining the appropriate disciplinary action to take against a person who violates this chapter or a commission rule. The methodology must:

- (1) provide guidance on when to use each of the available tools of enforcement, including technical assistance, voluntary plans of action, probation, suspension or revocation of a license or registration, denial of a license or registration, administrative penalties, and emergency suspension; and
- (2) allow the commission to consider the circumstances of a particular case, including:
  - (A) the nature and seriousness of the violation, including whether the violation involved the abuse or neglect of a child or resulted in the death or near fatal injury of a child;
  - (B) any history of previous violations, including a repetition or pattern of violations; and
  - (C) any aggravating and mitigating factors.



(d) The commission shall make the methodology described by Subsection (c) available to the public, including by posting the methodology on the commission's Internet website.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. 206), Sec. 81, eff. September 1, 2015.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1057 (H.B. 2070), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2015.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0705. RANGE OF PENALTIES. The department shall revoke or suspend a license or registration, place on probation a person whose license or registration has been suspended, or reprimand a license holder or registration holder for a violation of this chapter or a department rule. If a license or registration suspension is probated, the department may require the license holder or registration holder to:

(1) report regularly to the department on matters that are the basis of the probation;

(2) limit services to the areas prescribed by the department;

(3) continue or review professional education until the license holder or registration holder attains a degree of skill satisfactory to the department in those areas that are the basis of the probation; or

(4) take corrective action relating to the violation on which the probation is based.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 34, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 40, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.236, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.071. SUSPENSION OR PROBATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION. (a) The commission may suspend the license of a facility or the registration of a family home that has temporarily ceased operation but has definite plans for starting operations again within the time limits of the issued license or registration.

(b) The commission may suspend a facility's license or a family home's registration for a definite period rather than deny or revoke the



license or registration if the commission finds repeated noncompliance with standards that do not endanger the health and safety of children. To qualify for license or registration suspension under this subsection, a facility or family home must suspend its operations and show that standards can be met within the suspension period.

(c) If the commission finds a facility or family home is in repeated noncompliance with standards that do not endanger the health and safety of children, the commission may place the facility or family home on probation rather than suspend or revoke the facility's license or the family home's registration. The commission shall provide notice to the facility or family home of the probation and of the items of noncompliance not later than the 10th day before the probation period begins. During the probation period, the facility or family home must correct the items that were in noncompliance and report the corrections to the commission for approval.

(d) The commission shall revoke the license of a facility or the registration of a family home that does not comply with standards at the end of a license or registration suspension.

(e) The commission may suspend or revoke the license of a facility or the registration of a family home that does not correct items that were in noncompliance or that does not comply with required standards within the applicable probation period.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2365, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 111, ch. 23, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 29, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1081, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 35, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.0715. COSTS CHARGED TO FACILITY OR FAMILY HOME. The department may charge a facility or family home for reimbursement of the reasonable cost of services provided by the department in formulating, monitoring, and implementing a corrective action plan for the facility or family home.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 36, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.



Sec. 42.072. LICENSE, LISTING, OR REGISTRATION DENIAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION. (a) The commission may suspend, deny, revoke, or refuse to renew the license, listing, registration, or certification of approval of a facility or family home that does not comply with the requirements of this chapter, commission standards and rules, or the specific terms of the license, listing, registration, or certification. The commission may revoke the probation of a person whose license, listing, or registration is suspended if the person violates a term of the conditions of probation.

(b) If the commission proposes to take an action under Subsection (a), the person is entitled to a hearing conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Proceedings for a disciplinary action are governed by the administrative procedure law, Chapter 2001, Government Code. An action under this section, including a revocation of a person's license, is a contested case as defined by Chapter 2001, Government Code, and is subject to judicial review under the substantial evidence rule in accordance with that chapter. Rules of practice adopted by the executive commissioner under Section 2001.004, Government Code, applicable to the proceedings for a disciplinary action may not conflict with rules adopted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

(c) The commission may not issue a license, listing, registration, or certification to a person whose license, listing, registration, or certification is revoked or not renewed, whose application for a license, listing, registration, or certification is denied for a substantive reason under this chapter, or who in lieu of disciplinary action voluntarily closed a facility or family home or relinquished the person's license, listing, registration, or certification before the fifth anniversary of the date on which:

- (1) the revocation or nonrenewal takes effect by commission or court order;
- (2) the decision to deny the application is final;
- (3) the facility or family home is closed; or
- (4) the license, listing, registration, or certification is relinquished.

(c-1) A person described by Subsection (c) may not be a controlling person in any facility or family home during the five-year period in which the person is ineligible to receive a license, listing, registration, or certification.

(d) The executive commissioner by rule may provide for denial of an application or renewal for a licensed facility or for listing or registering a family home or may revoke a facility's license or a family



home's listing or registration based on findings of background or criminal history as a result of a background or criminal history check.

(d-1) A person may not operate a facility or family home during an appeal of a suspension or denial of a license, certification, registration, or listing.

(e) A person may continue to operate a facility or family home during an appeal of a revocation or refusal to renew a license, certification, or registration unless the operation of the facility or family home poses a risk to the health or safety of children. The executive commissioner shall by rule establish the criteria for determining whether the operation of a facility or family home poses a risk to the health or safety of children. The commission shall notify the facility or family home of the criteria the commission used to determine that the operation of the facility or family home poses a risk to health or safety and that the facility or family home may not operate. A person who has been notified by the commission that the facility or home may not operate under this section may seek injunctive relief from a district court in Travis County or in the county in which the facility or home is located to allow operation during the pendency of an appeal. The court may grant injunctive relief against the commission's action only if the court finds that the child-care operation does not pose a health or safety risk to children. A court granting injunctive relief under this subsection shall have no other jurisdiction over an appeal of final commission action unless conferred by Chapter 2001, Government Code.

(f) The commission shall deny an application or renewal for listing or registering a family home or shall revoke a family home's listing or registration if the results of a background or criminal history check conducted by the commission under Section 42.056 show that a person has been convicted of an offense under Title 5 or 6, Penal Code, or Chapter 43, Penal Code.

(g) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), the commission may refuse to issue a license, listing, registration, or certification to:

(1) a person whose license, listing, registration, or certification for a facility or family home was revoked by the commission or by court order;

(2) a person who was a controlling person of a facility or family home at the time conduct occurred that resulted in the revocation of the license, listing, registration, or certification of the facility or family home;

(3) a person who voluntarily closed a facility or family home or relinquished the person's license, listing, registration, or certification



after:

(A) the commission took an action under Subsection (a) in relation to the facility, family home, or person; or

(B) the person received notice that the commission intended to take an action under Subsection (a) in relation to the facility, family home, or person; or

(4) a person who was a controlling person of a facility or family home at the time conduct occurred that resulted in the closure of the facility or family home or relinquishment of the license, listing, registration, or certification in the manner described by Subdivision (3).

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2365, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 111, ch. 23, Sec. 2, eff. Aug. 29, 1983; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 977, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(49), eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 37, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 13, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 218, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.107, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 526 (H.B. 877), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.237, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. 568), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 372 (S.B. 764), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.073. EMERGENCY SUSPENSION AND CLOSURE OF A FACILITY OR FAMILY HOME. (a) The department shall suspend a facility's license or a family



home's listing or registration and order the immediate closing of the facility or family home if:

(1) the department finds the facility or family home is operating in violation of the applicable standards prescribed by this chapter; and

(2) the violation creates an immediate threat to the health and safety of the children attending or residing in the facility or family home.

(b) An order suspending a license, listing, or registration and an order closing a facility or family home under this section is immediately effective on the date on which the holder of the license, listing, or registration receives written notice or on a later date specified in the order.

(c) An order is valid for 30 days after the effective date of the order.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2366, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 977, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(49), eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 38, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 14, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.108, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 42.074. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. (a) The department may file suit in a district court in Travis County or in the county in which a facility or family home is located for assessment and recovery of a civil penalty under Section 42.075, for injunctive relief, including a temporary restraining order, or for both a civil penalty and injunctive relief when it appears that a person:

(1) has violated, is violating, or is threatening to violate the licensing, certification, listing, or registration requirements of this chapter or the department's licensing, certification, listing, or registration rules and standards; or

(2) knowingly fails to meet or maintain an exemption authorized under Section 42.041 and engages in activities that require a license or registration.



(b) The district court shall grant the injunctive relief the facts may warrant.

(c) At the department's request, the attorney general or the county or district attorney of the county in which the facility or family home is located shall conduct a suit in the name of the State of Texas for injunctive relief, to recover the civil penalty, or for both injunctive relief and civil penalties as authorized by Subsection (a).

(d) Injunctive relief provided by this section is in addition to any other action, proceeding, or remedy authorized by law. It is not necessary to allege or prove in an action filed under this section that an adequate remedy at law does not exist or that substantial or irreparable harm would result from the continued violation.

(e) The department is not required to give an appeal bond in an action arising under this section.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2367, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 1052, Sec. 4.09, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 39, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 15, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 42.075. CIVIL PENALTY. (a) A person is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 for each day of violation and for each act of violation if the person:

(1) threatens serious harm to a child in a facility or family home by violating a provision of this chapter or a department rule or standard;

(2) violates a provision of this chapter or a department rule or standard three or more times within a 12-month period;

(3) places a public advertisement for an unlicensed facility or an unlisted or unregistered family home;

(4) knowingly fails to meet or maintain any criterion of an exemption authorized under Section 42.041 and engages in activities that require a license or registration; or

(5) fails to inform the department of a change in status and the person knows the change in status requires the person to be licensed or registered under this chapter.



(b) The civil penalty authorized by this section is cumulative and in addition to the criminal penalties and injunctive relief provided by this chapter.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2367, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 40, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 16, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 42.076. CRIMINAL PENALTIES. (a) A person who operates a child-care facility or child-placing agency without a license commits a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) A person who operates a family home without a required listing or registration commits a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person who places a public advertisement for an unlicensed facility or an unlisted or unregistered family home commits a Class C misdemeanor.

(d) It is not an offense under this section if a professional provides legal or medical services to:

(1) a parent who identifies the prospective adoptive parent and places the child for adoption without the assistance of the professional; or

(2) a prospective adoptive parent who identifies a parent and receives placement of a child for adoption without assistance of the professional.

Acts 1979, 66th Leg., p. 2367, ch. 842, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1979. Amended by Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 915, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 411, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 664, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 41, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 17, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 42.0761. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR OPERATING DAY-CARE CENTER WITHOUT QUALIFIED DIRECTOR. (a) An owner or operator of a day-care center commits an offense if the owner or operator knowingly operates the day-care center:



(1) without a director who meets the qualifications of a director prescribed by department rules; or

(2) without the routine presence during the day-care center's hours of operation of a director described by Subdivision (1).

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. 758), Sec. 41, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.077. NOTICE OF ACTION AGAINST FACILITY OR FAMILY HOME. (a) If the department revokes or suspends a facility's license or a family home's listing or registration, the department shall publish notice of this action:

(1) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the facility or family home is located; or

(2) on the department's Internet website along with other information regarding child-care services.

(a-1) If notice is published in a newspaper under Subsection (a), the newspaper shall place the notice in the section in which advertisements for day-care services are normally published.

(b) If a person who operates a facility or family home that has had its license, listing, or registration revoked or suspended later applies for a new license, listing, or registration to operate the same facility or family home, the department shall charge the person an application fee set by the executive commissioner by rule in an amount necessary to reimburse the department for the cost of the notice relating to that facility or family home.

(c) The department shall pay for publication of the notice from funds appropriated to the department for licensing and regulating child-care facilities and for listing, registering, and regulating family homes and from appeal and application fees collected under Subsection (b) and appropriated to the department.

(d) A facility or family home that has its license, listing, or registration revoked or suspended shall mail notification of this action by certified mail to the parents or guardian of the child served by the facility or family home. The facility or family home shall mail the notification within five days of the effective date of the revocation or suspension of the license, listing, or registration.

(d-1) If the department determines that the license of a residential child-care facility should be revoked or suspended, the facility shall mail



notification of the action or proposed action by certified mail to a parent of each child served by the facility, if the person's parental rights have not been terminated, and to the child's managing conservator, as appropriate. The residential child-care facility shall mail the notification not later than the fifth day after the date the facility is notified of the department's determination that revocation or suspension of the license is appropriate.

(e) When the most recent federal census shows that more than one-half of the population in a municipality or in a commissioners precinct in a county in which a family home whose listing or registration has been revoked or suspended is located is of Hispanic origin or Spanish-speaking, the department shall publish the notice under Subsection (a) in both English and Spanish.

Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 42, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1063, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1217, Sec. 18, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. 6), Sec. 1.109, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 720 (S.B. 68), Sec. 17, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.238, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.078. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. (a) The commission may impose an administrative sanction or an administrative penalty against a facility or family home licensed, registered, or listed under this chapter that violates this chapter or a rule or order adopted under this chapter. In addition, the commission may impose an administrative penalty against a facility or family home or a controlling person of a facility or family home if the facility, family home, or controlling person:

(1) violates a term of a license or registration issued under this chapter;

(2) makes a statement about a material fact that the facility or person knows or should know is false:

(A) on an application for the issuance of a license or registration or an attachment to the application; or

(B) in response to a matter under investigation;



(3) refuses to allow a representative of the commission to inspect:

(A) a book, record, or file required to be maintained by the facility; or

(B) any part of the premises of the facility;

(4) purposefully interferes with the work of a representative of the commission or the enforcement of this chapter; or

(5) fails to pay a penalty assessed under this chapter on or before the date the penalty is due, as determined under this section.

(a-1) Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), nonmonetary administrative sanctions, including corrective action plans and probation periods, shall be imposed when appropriate before administrative penalties.

(a-2) The commission may impose an administrative penalty without first imposing a nonmonetary administrative sanction for violating a minimum standard applicable to a facility or family home under this chapter that is determined by the commission to be a high-risk standard, including standards for a violation constituting abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child, background check standards, safety hazard standards, standards establishing times for reporting information to a parent or guardian or the commission, and supervision standards.

(b) Each day a violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for purposes of imposing a penalty. The penalty for a violation may be in an amount not to exceed the following limits, based on the maximum number of children for whom the facility or family home was authorized to provide care or the number of children under the care of the child-placing agency when the violation occurred:

(1) for violations that occur in a facility other than a residential child-care facility:

Number of children	Maximum amount of penalty
20 or less	\$50
21-40	\$60
41-60	\$70
61-80	\$80
81-100	\$100
More than 100	\$150

(2) for violations that occur in a residential child-care facility:

Number of children	Maximum amount of penalty
20 or less	\$100
21-40	\$150
41-60	\$200
61-80	\$250
81-100	\$375
More than 100	\$500

(c) In addition to the number of children, the amount of the penalty shall be based on:



(1) the seriousness of the violation, including the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of any prohibited acts, and the hazard or potential hazard created to the health, safety, or economic welfare of the public;

(2) the economic harm to property or the environment caused by the violation;

(3) the history of previous violations;

(4) the amount necessary to deter future violations;

(5) efforts to correct the violation; and

(6) any other matter that justice may require.

(d) Monetary penalties may not be assessed for violations that are the result of clerical errors.

(e) If the commission determines that a violation has occurred, the commission may issue a recommendation on the imposition of a penalty, including a recommendation on the amount of the penalty.

(e-1) Notwithstanding the amounts required by Subsections (b) and (c) and except as provided by Subsection (e-3), the commission shall recommend the penalty for the following violations by a facility or family home to be assessed in the following amounts:

(1) \$1,000 for a violation that constitutes abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child;

(2) \$500 for failure to report to a parent or guardian of a child or the commission within the time required by commission standards an injury of a child in the care of the facility or home that requires treatment by a medical professional or hospitalization or an illness of a child that requires hospitalization;

(3) \$50 for failure to report to a parent or guardian of each child in the care of the facility or home within the time required by commission standards that the commission cited the facility or home for a violation:

(A) that constitutes abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child; or

(B) of a safe sleeping standard; and

(4) \$50 for failure to report to a parent or guardian of each child in the care of the facility or home within the time required by commission standards that the facility or home does not maintain liability insurance coverage.

(e-2) For purposes of Subsections (e-1) (3) and (4), the commission shall recommend a penalty of \$50 for the initial violation and an additional penalty of \$50 for each day the violation continues or occurs.



(e-3) Subsection (e-1)(1) does not apply to a residential child-care facility.

(f) Within 14 days after the date the recommendation is issued, the commission shall give written notice of the recommendation to the person owning or operating the facility or family home or to the controlling person, if applicable. The notice may be given by certified mail. The notice must include a brief summary of the alleged violation and a statement of the amount of the recommended penalty and must inform the person that the person has a right to a hearing on the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty.

(g) Within 20 days after the date the person receives the notice, the person in writing may accept the determination and recommended penalty of the commission or may make a written request for a hearing on the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty.

(h) If the person accepts the determination and recommended penalty of the commission or fails to respond to the notice in a timely manner, the commission shall issue an order and impose the recommended penalty.

(i) If the person requests a hearing, the commission shall set a hearing and give notice of the hearing to the person. The hearing shall be held by an administrative law judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law and issue a final decision finding that a violation has occurred and imposing a penalty or finding that no violation occurred.

(j) The notice of the administrative law judge's order given to the person under Chapter 2001, Government Code, must include a statement of the right of the person to judicial review of the order.

(k) Within 30 days after the date the administrative law judge's order becomes final as provided by Section 2001.144, Government Code, the person shall:

(1) pay the amount of the penalty;

(2) pay the amount of the penalty and file a petition for judicial review contesting the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty; or

(3) without paying the amount of the penalty, file a petition for judicial review contesting the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty.



(1) Within the 30-day period, a person who acts under Subsection (k) (3) may:

(1) stay enforcement of the penalty by:

(A) paying the amount of the penalty to the court for placement in an escrow account; or

(B) giving to the court a supersedeas bond that is approved by the court for the amount of the penalty and that is effective until all judicial review of the order is final; or

(2) request the court to stay enforcement of the penalty by:

(A) filing with the court a sworn affidavit of the person stating that the person is financially unable to pay the amount of the penalty and is financially unable to give the supersedeas bond; and

(B) giving a copy of the affidavit to the department by certified mail.

(m) On receipt of a copy of an affidavit under Subsection (1)(2), the commission may file with the court, within five days after the date the copy is received, a contest to the affidavit. The court shall hold a hearing on the facts alleged in the affidavit as soon as practicable and shall stay the enforcement of the penalty on finding that the alleged facts are true. The person who files an affidavit has the burden of proving that the person is financially unable to pay the amount of the penalty and to give a supersedeas bond.

(n) If the person does not pay the amount of the penalty and the enforcement of the penalty is not stayed, the commission may refer the matter to the attorney general for collection of the amount of the penalty.

(o) Judicial review of the order:

(1) is instituted by filing a petition as provided by Subchapter G, Chapter 2001, Government Code; and

(2) is under the substantial evidence rule.

(p) If the court sustains the occurrence of the violation, the court may uphold or reduce the amount of the penalty and order the person to pay the full or reduced amount of the penalty. If the court does not sustain the occurrence of the violation, the court shall order that no penalty is owed.

(q) When the judgment of the court becomes final, the court shall proceed under this subsection. If the person paid the amount of the penalty and if that amount is reduced or is not upheld by the court, the court shall order that the appropriate amount plus accrued interest be remitted to the person. The rate of the interest is the rate charged on loans to depository institutions by the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and



the interest shall be paid for the period beginning on the date the penalty was paid and ending on the date the penalty is remitted. If the person gave a supersedeas bond and if the amount of the penalty is not upheld by the court, the court shall order the release of the bond. If the person gave a supersedeas bond and if the amount of the penalty is reduced, the court shall order the release of the bond after the person pays the amount.

(r) A penalty collected under this section shall be sent to the comptroller for deposit in the safety training account established under Section [42.04215](#).

(s) All proceedings under this section are subject to Chapter [2001](#), Government Code.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1022, Sec. 43, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1129, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 268 (S.B. [6](#)), Sec. 1.110(a), eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1406 (S.B. [758](#)), Sec. 42, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. [1178](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 746 (S.B. [427](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. [219](#)), Sec. 4.239, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. [206](#)), Sec. 82, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1057 (H.B. [2070](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. [781](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 588 (S.B. [568](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.079. CEASE AND DESIST ORDER. (a) If it appears to the department that a person who is not licensed, certified, registered, or listed under this chapter is operating a child-care facility or family home, the department, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, may issue a cease and desist order prohibiting the person from operating the facility or home.



(b) A violation of an order under this section constitutes grounds for imposing an administrative penalty under Section 42.078.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. 206), Sec. 83, eff. September 1, 2015.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1057 (H.B. 2070), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 42.080. DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROHIBITED. The commission may not issue a citation to or take any other disciplinary action against a general residential operation or a child-placing agency for failing to employ a licensed child-care administrator or licensed child-placing administrator, as appropriate, if the operation or agency has:

- (1) been without an administrator for less than 60 days; and
- (2) made substantial efforts to hire a qualified administrator.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 22, eff. June 14, 2021.

#### SUBCHAPTER F. REGULATION OF EMPLOYER-BASED DAY-CARE FACILITIES

Sec. 42.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

- (1) "Employer-based day-care facility" means a day-care facility that is:
  - (A) operated by a small employer to provide care to not more than 12 children of the employer's employees; and
  - (B) located on the employer's premises.
- (2) "Small employer" means a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or other legal entity that employs fewer than 100 full-time employees.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 89 (H.B. 415), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 42.152. PERMIT REQUIRED. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a small employer may not operate an employer-based day-care facility unless the employer holds a permit issued by the department under this subchapter.



(b) A small employer is not required to obtain a permit to operate an employer-based day-care facility under this subchapter if the employer holds a license to operate a child-care facility that is issued by the department under Subchapter C. An employer that holds that license must comply with the applicable provisions of Subchapter C, the applicable department rules, and any specific terms of the license.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, including Section 42.041, a small employer that holds a permit issued under this subchapter is not required to hold a license under Subchapter C to operate an employer-based day-care facility.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.240, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.153. APPLICATION; INITIAL INSPECTION AND BACKGROUND AND CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS. (a) The department shall develop and implement a streamlined procedure by which a small employer may apply for and be issued a permit to operate an employer-based day-care facility. The employer must submit an application for the permit to the department on a form prescribed by the department.

(b) Except as provided by Section 42.154, on receipt of a small employer's application for a permit, the department shall:

(1) conduct an initial inspection of the employer-based day-care facility to ensure that the employer is able to comply with the provisions of this subchapter and that the facility complies with the fire safety and sanitation standards of the political subdivision in which the facility is located; and

(2) conduct a background and criminal history check on each prospective caregiver whose name is submitted as required by Section 42.159(a).

(c) The department may charge an applicant an administrative fee set by the executive commissioner by rule in a reasonable amount that is sufficient to cover the costs of the department in processing the application.

(d) The department shall process an application not later than the 30th day after the date the department receives all of the required information.



Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.241, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.154. CONVERSION OF LICENSE. (a) The department shall develop and implement a procedure by which a small employer that holds a license to operate a child-care facility that is issued under Subchapter C before September 1, 2007, may convert the license to a permit under this subchapter. The procedure must include an abbreviated application form for use by the employer in applying for the permit.

(b) The department may waive the requirements under Section 42.153(b) for an initial inspection or background and criminal history checks with respect to a facility operated by a small employer seeking to convert a license to a permit under this section if the department determines that previously conducted inspections or background and criminal history checks, as applicable, are sufficient to ensure the safety of children receiving care at the facility.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.155. PARENT OR GUARDIAN WITHIN IMMEDIATE VICINITY. An employer-based day-care facility operating under this subchapter may provide care only for a child whose parent or guardian:

(1) is an employee of the small employer to which the permit to operate the facility was issued;

(2) works within the same building in which the facility is located; and

(3) is away from that building only for limited periods, as defined by department rules, during the hours the child is receiving care.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.156. CAREGIVER-TO-CHILD RATIO. An employer-based day-care facility operating under this subchapter shall maintain a caregiver-to-child ratio of at least one caregiver to every four children receiving care.



Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. [1385](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.157. MINIMUM STANDARDS. The department shall encourage an employer-based day-care facility operating under this subchapter to comply with the minimum standards applicable to a child-care facility licensed under Subchapter C.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. [1385](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.158. CAREGIVER QUALIFICATIONS. A caregiver employed by an employer-based day-care facility operating under this subchapter must:

- (1) be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) have received a high school diploma or its equivalent, as determined by the department;
- (3) receive at least the minimum training required for an employee of a licensed day-care center as prescribed by department rules in accordance with Sections [42.042\(p\)](#) and [42.0421](#);
- (4) have a Child Development Associate or Certified Child-Care Professional credential or an equivalent credential, as determined by the department; and
- (5) not have been precluded from providing direct care or having direct access to a child by the department based on the results of a background and criminal history check conducted under Section [42.159](#).

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. [1385](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.159. BACKGROUND AND CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS REQUIRED. (a) In accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner, a small employer shall, when applying for a permit under this subchapter and at least once during each 24 months after receiving that permit, submit to the department for use in conducting background and criminal history checks:

- (1) the name of any director of the employer-based day-care facility and the name of each caregiver employed at the facility to provide care to children; and
- (2) the name of each person 14 years of age or older who will regularly or frequently be staying or working at the facility while children are being provided care.



(b) The small employer shall also submit to the department for use in conducting background and criminal history checks the name of each prospective caregiver who will provide care to children at the facility or other prospective employee who will have direct access to those children.

(b-1) A person subject to the background and criminal history check required by Subsection (a) or (b) shall submit to the commission a complete set of fingerprints.

(b-2) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules adopted under this section:

(1) must require that the fingerprints submitted be in a form and of a quality acceptable to the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of conducting a criminal history check;

(2) may require that the fingerprints be submitted electronically through an applicant fingerprinting service center; and

(3) may allow the commission to waive a fingerprint submission required by this section if:

(A) the person for whom the submission is required has:

(i) a fingerprint-based criminal history check on file with the commission obtained under Section 411.114, Government Code; or

(ii) a fingerprint-based criminal history clearinghouse record, as provided by Section 411.0845, Government Code, that is accessible to the commission through the Department of Public Safety and obtained under Section 411.114, Government Code; and

(B) the commission has an active subscription to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Record of Arrest and Prosecution Back Service for the person for whom the fingerprint submission is required.

(c) The department shall conduct background and criminal history checks using:

(1) the information provided under Subsection (a) or (b), as applicable;

(2) the information made available by the Department of Public Safety under Section 411.114, Government Code, or by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other criminal justice agency under Section 411.087, Government Code; and

(3) the department's records of reported abuse and neglect.

(c-1) For each person whose fingerprints are submitted under Subsection (b-1), the department shall conduct a state and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history check by:



(1) submitting the person's fingerprints, or causing the fingerprints to be submitted electronically, to the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of conducting a state and federal criminal history check; and

(2) using the resulting information made available by that department under Section 411.114, Government Code, and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any other criminal justice agency under Section 411.087, Government Code.

(d) For purposes of Sections 411.114 and 411.087, Government Code:

(1) a small employer that applies for a permit is considered an applicant for a license under this chapter; and

(2) an employer-based day-care facility operating under a permit issued under this subchapter is considered a child-care facility licensed under this chapter.

(e) The department shall require the small employer to pay to the department a fee set by the executive commissioner by rule in an amount not to exceed the administrative costs the department incurs in conducting a background and criminal history check under this section.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.242, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 597 (S.B. 1061), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 42.160. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, an employer-based day-care facility operating under this subchapter is not a child-care facility, as defined by Section 42.002, and the provisions of this chapter and the department's rules that apply to a child-care facility licensed under Subchapter C do not apply to an employer-based day-care facility.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.161. REPORTING OF INCIDENTS AND VIOLATIONS. An employer-based day-care facility operating under this subchapter and each employee of that facility are subject to the reporting requirements of Section



42.063 to the same extent a licensed child-care facility and employees of licensed child-care facilities are subject to that section.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 42.162. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT LIMITED INSPECTIONS. (a) The department may inspect an employer-based day-care facility operating under this subchapter if the department receives a complaint or report of child abuse or neglect alleged to have occurred at the facility.

(b) If the department inspects an employer-based day-care facility as authorized by this section, the department may require the small employer operating the facility to take appropriate corrective action the department determines necessary to comply with the requirements of this subchapter and to ensure the health and safety of children receiving care at the facility. The department may continue to inspect the facility until corrective action is taken and for a reasonable time after that action is taken to ensure continued compliance.

(c) The department may charge a small employer issued a permit under this subchapter a reasonable fee set by the executive commissioner by rule for the cost of services provided by the department in formulating, monitoring, and implementing a corrective action plan under this section.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. 1385), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.243, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.163. SUSPENSION, DENIAL, OR REVOCATION. (a) The department may suspend, deny, or revoke a permit issued to a small employer under this subchapter if the employer does not comply with the provisions of this subchapter or any applicable department rules.

(b) The department may refuse to issue a permit under this subchapter to a small employer that had its authorization to operate a child-care facility issued under another subchapter revoked, suspended, or not renewed for a reason relating to child health or safety as determined by the department.

(c) An employer-based day-care facility is subject to the emergency suspension of its permit to operate and to closure under Section 42.073 to



the same extent and in the same manner as a licensed child-care facility is subject to that section.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1414 (H.B. [1385](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

#### SUBCHAPTER G. REGULATION OF TEMPORARY SHELTER DAY-CARE FACILITIES

Sec. 42.201. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Shelter" means a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter or other facility that is designed to provide temporary living accommodations to individuals and families, including a family violence shelter, a homeless shelter, and an emergency shelter. The term does not include a temporary facility established in response to a natural or other disaster.

(2) "Shelter care" means child care that is provided:

(A) to seven or more children under 14 years of age who temporarily reside at a shelter each with an adult who is related to the child by blood or who is the child's managing conservator;

(B) by a person who is not a temporary resident of a shelter;  
and

(C) while the adult described by Paragraph (A) is away from the shelter.

(3) "Shelter day-care facility" means a shelter that provides shelter care for not more than 24 hours a day, but at least four hours a day, three or more days a week.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. [1178](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Sec. 42.202. PERMIT REQUIRED. (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (e), a shelter may not provide shelter care unless the shelter holds a permit issued by the department under this subchapter.

(b) A shelter is not required to obtain a permit to provide shelter care under this subchapter if the shelter holds a license to operate a child-care facility that is issued by the department under Subchapter C. A shelter that holds that license must comply with the applicable provisions of Subchapter C, the applicable department rules, and any specific terms of the license.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, including Section [42.041](#), a shelter that holds a permit issued under this subchapter is not required to



hold a license under Subchapter C to operate a shelter day-care facility.

(d) The department may not issue a permit under this subchapter to a shelter that provides child care to a child who is not a resident of the shelter. A shelter that provides child care described by this subsection must hold a license to operate a child-care facility issued under Subchapter C.

(e) A shelter is not required to obtain a permit under this subchapter or a license under Subchapter C if the shelter provides shelter care for:

- (1) less than four hours a day or for less than three days a week; or
- (2) six or fewer children.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. [1178](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. [219](#)), Sec. 4.244, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.203. APPLICATION; INITIAL INSPECTION AND BACKGROUND AND CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS. (a) The department shall develop and implement a streamlined procedure by which a shelter may apply for and be issued a permit to operate a shelter day-care facility. The shelter must submit an application for the permit to the department on a form prescribed by the department.

(b) Except as provided by Section [42.204](#), on receipt of a shelter's application for a permit, the department shall:

(1) conduct an initial inspection of the shelter day-care facility to ensure that the shelter is able to comply with the provisions of this subchapter and that the facility complies with the fire safety and sanitation standards of the political subdivision in which the facility is located; and

(2) conduct a background and criminal history check on each prospective caregiver whose name is submitted as required by Section [42.206](#)(a).

(c) The department may charge an applicant an administrative fee set by the executive commissioner by rule in a reasonable amount that is sufficient to cover the costs of the department in processing the application.



(d) The department shall process an application not later than the 30th day after the date the department receives all of the required information.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.245, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 42.204. CONVERSION OF LICENSE. (a) The department shall develop and implement a procedure by which a shelter that holds a license to operate a child-care facility that is issued under Subchapter C before September 1, 2012, may convert the license to a permit under this subchapter. The procedure must include an abbreviated application form for use by the shelter in applying for the permit.

(b) The department may waive the requirements under Section 42.203(b) for an initial inspection or background and criminal history checks with respect to a licensed child-care facility seeking to convert a license to a permit under this section if the department determines that previously conducted inspections or background and criminal history checks, as applicable, are sufficient to ensure the safety of children receiving care at the facility.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Sec. 42.205. CAREGIVER QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING; CHILD-TO-CAREGIVER RATIOS. (a) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules that specify the minimum:

(1) qualifications and training required for a person providing child care in a shelter day-care facility; and

(2) child-to-caregiver ratios in a shelter day-care facility.

(b) In adopting rules under this section, the executive commissioner shall consider:

(1) the special circumstances and needs of families that seek temporary shelter; and

(2) the role of a shelter in assisting and supporting families in crisis.



Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Sec. 42.206. BACKGROUND AND CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS REQUIRED. (a) In accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner, a shelter shall, when applying for a permit under this subchapter and at least once during each 24-month period after receiving that permit, submit to the department for use in conducting background and criminal history checks:

- (1) the name of any director or prospective director of the shelter day-care facility and the name of each caregiver or prospective caregiver employed at the facility to provide care to children;
- (2) the name of each person counted in child-to-caregiver ratios at the shelter day-care facility; and
- (3) the name of each person 14 years of age or older who will have unsupervised access to one or more children while in the care of the shelter day-care facility.

(b) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (a), a shelter shall submit a complete set of fingerprints of each person required to undergo a criminal history check under Subsection (a).

(b-1) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules adopted under this section:

(1) must require that the fingerprints submitted be in a form and of a quality acceptable to the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for purposes of conducting a criminal history check;

(2) may require that the fingerprints be submitted electronically through an applicant fingerprinting service center; and

(3) may allow the commission to waive a fingerprint submission required by this section if:

(A) the person for whom the submission is required has:

- (i) a fingerprint-based criminal history check on file with the commission obtained under Section 411.114, Government Code; or
- (ii) a fingerprint-based criminal history clearinghouse record, as provided by Section 411.0845, Government Code, that is accessible to the commission through the Department of Public Safety and obtained under Section 411.114, Government Code; and

(B) the commission has an active subscription to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Record of Arrest and Prosecution Back Service for the person for whom the fingerprint submission is required.



(c) The department shall conduct background and criminal history checks using:

(1) the information provided under Subsection (a) or (b), as applicable;

(2) the information made available by the Department of Public Safety under Section 411.114, Government Code, or by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or another criminal justice agency under Section 411.087, Government Code; and

(3) the department's records of reported abuse and neglect.

(c-1) For each person whose fingerprints are submitted under Subsection (b), the department shall conduct a state and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history check by:

(1) submitting the person's fingerprints, or causing the fingerprints to be submitted electronically, to the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of conducting a state and federal criminal history check; and

(2) using the resulting information made available by that department under Section 411.114, Government Code, and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any other criminal justice agency under Section 411.087, Government Code.

(d) For purposes of Sections 411.114 and 411.087, Government Code:

(1) a shelter that applies for a permit is considered to be an applicant for a license under this chapter; and

(2) a shelter day-care facility operating under a permit issued under this subchapter is considered to be a child-care facility licensed under this chapter.

(e) The department shall require the shelter to pay to the department a fee set by the executive commissioner by rule in an amount not to exceed the administrative costs the department incurs in conducting a background and criminal history check under this section.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.246, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 597 (S.B. 1061), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2021.



Sec. 42.207. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, a shelter day-care facility operating under this subchapter is not a child-care facility, as defined by Section 42.002, and the provisions of this chapter and the department's rules that apply to a child-care facility licensed under Subchapter C do not apply to a shelter day-care facility.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Sec. 42.208. REPORTING OF INCIDENTS AND VIOLATIONS. A shelter day-care facility operating under this subchapter and each employee of that facility are subject to the reporting requirements of Section 42.063 to the same extent a licensed child-care facility and employees of licensed child-care facilities are subject to that section.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Sec. 42.209. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT LIMITED INSPECTIONS. (a) The department may inspect a shelter day-care facility operating under this subchapter if the department receives a complaint or report of child abuse or neglect alleged to have occurred at the shelter day-care facility.

(b) If the department inspects a shelter day-care facility as authorized by this section, the department may require the facility to take appropriate corrective action the department determines necessary to comply with the requirements of this subchapter and to ensure the health and safety of children receiving care at the facility. The department may continue to inspect the facility until corrective action is taken and for a reasonable time after that action is taken to ensure continued compliance.

(c) The department may charge a shelter issued a permit under this subchapter a reasonable fee set by the executive commissioner by rule for the cost of services provided by the department in formulating, monitoring, and implementing a corrective action plan under this section.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 4.247, eff. April 2, 2015.



Sec. 42.210. SUSPENSION, DENIAL, OR REVOCATION. (a) The department may suspend, deny, or revoke a permit issued to a shelter under this subchapter if the shelter does not comply with the provisions of this subchapter or any applicable department rules.

(b) The department may refuse to issue a permit under this subchapter to a shelter that had its authorization to operate a child-care facility issued under another subchapter revoked, suspended, or not renewed for a reason relating to child health or safety as determined by the department.

(c) A shelter day-care facility is subject to the emergency suspension of its permit to operate and to closure under Section 42.073 to the same extent and in the same manner as a licensed child-care facility is subject to that section.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1082 (S.B. 1178), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2012.

#### SUBCHAPTER H. REGULATION OF CERTAIN GENERAL RESIDENTIAL OPERATIONS

Sec. 42.251. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to a general residential operation that:

- (1) provides care for seven or more children or young adults; and
- (2) provides treatment services for children or young adults with emotional disorders.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.252. PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PLAN; LICENSING PROCEDURES. (a) In addition to the applicable requirements to obtain a license under Subchapter C, a person applying for a license to operate a general residential operation shall submit to the commission a proposed operational plan.

- (b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules regarding:
- (1) the information that must be included in the operational plan;
  - (2) the commission's review of the operational plan; and
  - (3) the basis of the commission's determination on whether:
    - (A) the plan is complete or incomplete; and
    - (B) to deny or approve the plan.
- (c) The operational plan must include:



(1) a community engagement plan to develop and, if necessary, improve relations between the general residential operation and the community in which the operation is located that includes:

(A) a summary of any discussions the operation had with:

(i) local law enforcement; and

(ii) local health, therapeutic, and recreational resources available to support children at the operation; and

(B) a summary of the opportunities the children at the operation will have for social interaction in the community;

(2) an educational plan describing the applicant's plan to provide for the educational needs of the children at the general residential operation that:

(A) identifies whether the proposed operation will provide for the public or private education of school-age children at the operation;

(B) identifies whether the proposed operation will provide for the education of school-age children through a local school, off-site charter school, or on-site charter school;

(C) includes any discussions, plans, and agreements with the local school district, private school, or local charter school that will be providing education to the school-age children at the operation; and

(D) if the children are to be enrolled in a public school, includes either:

(i) a statement from the local independent school district on the impact of the proposed child-care services on the local school district; or

(ii) an explanation of the reasons the operation was unable to obtain a statement described by Subparagraph (i) and a discussion of other alternative educational services that the operation could offer;

(3) a trauma-informed plan to address unauthorized absences of children from the general residential operation;

(4) a suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention plan that meets the requirements of Section [42.0433](#); and

(5) the qualifications, background, and history, including any compliance history, of each individual who is proposed to be involved in:

(A) the management of the operation; and

(B) the educational leadership of the operation if the operation will be using an on-site charter school.

(d) A person applying for a license to operate a general residential operation shall state in the application if the proposed operation will



provide services to children who are victims of human trafficking but is not required to include this information in the operational plan.

(e) The commission must approve the proposed general residential operation's operational plan before:

- (1) holding a hearing under Section [42.0461](#), if applicable; or
- (2) granting a license to operate a general residential

operation.

(f) In evaluating an application for a license to operate a general residential operation, the commission may consider:

- (1) evidence gathered through the application review process;
- (2) all parts of the operational plan described by Subsection

(c);

(3) evidence of community support for or opposition to the proposed general residential operation, including any public comment the executive commissioner receives relating to the licensing of the proposed operation; and

(4) the impact statement from the school district likely to be affected by the proposed general residential operation, including information relating to any financial impact on the district that may result from an increase in enrollment.

(g) The commission may deny an application for a license to operate a general residential operation if the commission determines that:

(1) the community has insufficient resources to support children proposed to be served by the applicant;

(2) granting the license would significantly impact the local school district and would adversely affect the children proposed to be served by the applicant; or

(3) granting the license would have a significant adverse impact on the community and would limit opportunities for social interaction for the children proposed to be served by the applicant.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. [781](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2019.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. [1896](#)), Sec. 23, eff. June 14, 2021.

Sec. 42.253. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION RELATING TO SERVICES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS. (a) If an applicant for a license to operate a general residential operation will provide services to victims of human



trafficking, any information relating to the provision of services for victims of human trafficking is confidential and the commission may not disclose that information.

(b) If a hearing is required under Section 42.0461 for an application for a license to operate a general residential operation and the proposed operation will provide services to victims of human trafficking, the applicant is not required to disclose any information relating to the provision of services for victims of human trafficking.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.254. DUTIES RELATING TO EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN GENERAL RESIDENTIAL OPERATION. (a) The commission shall collaborate with the Texas Education Agency to determine best practices for educational services in a general residential operation, including the most effective educational plans and best practices for implementing those plans.

(b) The department shall make available on the department's Internet website information and training regarding trauma-informed practices to assist school districts with training district employees by increasing staff awareness of trauma-informed care.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.2541. IMPROVING EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN. (a) The department shall develop a strategic plan for improving the provision of educational services to children placed in a general residential operation.

(b) The department shall report to the Texas Education Agency the educational outcomes for children placed in a general residential operation.

(c) The department and the Texas Education Agency shall annually evaluate the educational outcomes for children placed in a general residential operation and adopt strategies and policies to improve the outcomes and standards.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 24, eff. June 14, 2021.

Sec. 42.255. HEARING BEFORE RENEWAL OF LICENSE. (a) On request of the commissioners court of a county where a general residential operation



is located, the commission shall hold a public hearing to obtain public comments regarding the renewal of the operation's license.

(b) The commission shall adopt procedures that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the commission and to speak on any issue related to renewal of the general residential operation's license, including procedures relating to the conduct of the hearing, the order of witnesses, and the conduct of participants at the hearing.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 394 (S.B. 781), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 42.256. TREATMENT MODEL. (a) Each general residential operation providing treatment services shall, on issuance of an initial or renewal license under this chapter, submit to the commission information on the operation's treatment model. A general residential operation that contracts with the department to provide residential care for children in foster care shall submit information on the operation's treatment model to the department on execution and renewal of a contract.

(b) The operation shall annually assess the overall effectiveness of the model adopted under this section.

(c) The treatment model must address all aspects related to children's care, including children's therapeutic needs. The model shall include:

(1) the manner in which treatment goals will be individualized and identified for each child;

(2) the method the operation will use to measure the effectiveness of each treatment goal for the child;

(3) the actions the operation will take if the treatment goals are not met; and

(4) the method the operation will use to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment model.

(d) A general residential operation may change a treatment model adopted under this section after notifying the commission of the change and submitting the new treatment model to the commission.

(e) The executive commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.

(f) The general residential operation shall adopt policies and procedures to implement the treatment model.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 24, eff. June 14, 2021.



Sec. 42.257. EVALUATION OF PLACEMENTS. (a) A general residential operation that considers accepting a child's placement with the operation shall evaluate the proposed placement on the following criteria:

- (1) whether the child meets the operation's admission criteria;
- (2) whether the child would benefit from the treatment model implemented at the operation; and
- (3) whether the operation has the staff and resources to meet the child's needs considering the other children at the operation and the other children's needs.

(b) A general residential operation shall ensure that the evaluation under Subsection (a) does not delay the timely placement of a child.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 24, eff. June 14, 2021.

Sec. 42.258. LIMIT ON PLACEMENTS FOR NEW FACILITY. If the department or a single source continuum contractor contracts with a general residential operation providing treatment services to place children with the operation before the operation is licensed, the contract must limit the number of children that may be placed at the operation each month and limit the number of children with a service level of specialized, intense, or intense plus until the operation exhibits sustained compliance with the licensing standards.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 24, eff. June 14, 2021.

Sec. 42.259. TRANSITION PLANS. A general residential operation shall develop a transition plan for each child who has been placed at the operation for longer than six months.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. 1896), Sec. 24, eff. June 14, 2021.

Sec. 42.260. TELEHEALTH PILOT PROGRAM. The commission in coordination with the department and single source continuum contractors shall establish guidelines in the STAR Health program to improve the use of telehealth services to provide and enhance mental health and behavioral



health care for children placed in the managing conservatorship of the state.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 621 (S.B. [1896](#)), Sec. 24, eff. June 14, 2021.